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**New Partnership for Africa's Development:
progress in implementation and international support:
causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace
and sustainable development in Africa**

**Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and
sustainable development in Africa****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report is submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 66/287, which was adopted following consideration by the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session of the report of the Secretary-General dated 1 August 2011 (A/66/214-S/2011/476), containing a review of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318).

The report sets out highlights of the major developments in Africa in the past year and examines the implementation by the United Nations system of key priority areas identified in the review report. In keeping with the mandate of resolution 66/287 to develop policy proposals on emerging challenges, the report provides an in-depth analysis of one of the most pressing issues in Africa, namely the management of diversity, and proposes concrete and practical recommendations.

* A/67/150.



I. Introduction

1. In 1998, in response to a request from the Security Council, my predecessor undertook a comprehensive analysis of the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. The report proposed specific measures aimed at reducing conflict, building durable peace and promoting sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318).

2. In 2009, in its resolution 63/304, the General Assembly requested me to submit a report reviewing the status of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report, focusing on new and emerging challenges and persistent obstacles, as well as innovative solutions, gains and accomplishments, in the attainment of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. A comprehensive review was undertaken, including broad-based consultations with Member States, the African Union and African regional economic communities, civil society organizations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations system, through the Inter-Agency Task Force on Africa coordinated by the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa. I issued a review report outlining the progress made, persistent challenges and new and emerging challenges facing Africa. I also set out recommendations and proposals for a renewed United Nations engagement with Africa (A/65/152-S/2010/526).

3. In my review report, I noted that the systematic exclusion of significant portions of society from institutions of political governance and from access to key economic assets and social services is not only one of the main triggers of conflict, but it also makes it difficult to attain sustainable development. In my report of 2011 (A/66/214) I focused on one element of the challenge, namely, an increasingly disgruntled and disenfranchised youth population in countries facing economic inequality, weak and unrepresentative institutions, lack of decent jobs, opportunities and freedoms and the increased risk of instability that this poses. This year, my report focuses on the larger issue of the management of diversity, and the urgent need to address the related peace, stability and sustainable development challenges.

II. A year in review

4. Since my last report, certain positive trends in Africa have been recorded. According to African Economic Outlook 2012,¹ outside North Africa growth was solid at 4.5 per cent in 2011, reinforcing the recovery of 4.8 per cent in 2010. Growth in West Africa averaged 5.6 per cent, in East Africa 5.8 per cent, in Central Africa 4.2 per cent and in Southern Africa 3.5 per cent. North Africa recorded zero growth in 2011, down from 4.2 per cent in 2010, due to political unrest.

5. Similarly, remittances from sub-Saharan Africans in the diaspora, which had been hit by the global financial and economic crisis, have risen from \$20.6 billion in 2009 to \$22 billion in 2011. World Bank projections for remittances for 2012 stand at \$24 billion for sub-Saharan Africa and \$40 billion for the entire continent.

6. Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into Africa have continued the downward trend experienced since the onset of the global financial and economic

¹ Produced jointly by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the African Union.

crisis in 2008. According to the latest estimated data of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, FDI inflows declined marginally from \$43.1 billion in 2010 to \$42.7 billion in 2011, a further decline from \$52.6 billion in 2009. As a result, the continent's share of global FDI flows declined from 3.3 per cent in 2010 to 2.8 per cent in 2011.

7. On the governance and democracy front, 23 African countries will have held democratic elections between August 2011 and March 2013. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs continue to provide support to such electoral processes. Elections in the Niger completed a significant transition from military to civilian rule and legislative elections in Côte d'Ivoire have helped to consolidate peace following the post-election crisis in 2011. Elections in Zambia, Senegal and Lesotho in September 2011 and March and May 2012 respectively, brought peaceful changes of Government in those countries, further entrenching democratic practice.

8. In addition, the Democratic Republic of the Congo held presidential and legislative elections in November 2011 and Liberia held a constitutional referendum in August 2011 and presidential and parliamentary elections in November 2011. These were the second round of elections since the end of war in both countries. Sierra Leone will also continue its democratic transition with elections in November 2012.

9. The progress on elections and democracy has not been without challenges; elections in Mali and Guinea-Bissau were postponed following coups d'état in March and April 2012 respectively. Moreover, contested elections have sometimes led to violence and concerns remain about electoral laws and the functioning and management of electoral bodies. There is also the important question as to the extent to which democracy-building, broadly speaking, and elections specifically, facilitate constructive management of diversity in contemporary Africa, a question that I will deal with later in this report.

10. Africa has also faced several major crises, with the Sahel crisis and famine in the Horn of Africa affecting over 13 million people. Violence in Libya following the change of Government has created more than 900,000 refugees. The situation has also had a major impact on neighbouring countries. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimated that by 27 November 2011, the number of migrant workers who had fled from Libya into countries such as Burkina Faso, Chad, Ghana, Mali and the Niger stood at over 420,000. In addition to depriving thousands of families of remittances, their flight has added population pressure to communities already facing drought and exacerbated an already tenuous security and humanitarian situation in the Sahel region.

11. In addition, arms proliferation is aggravating long-standing conflicts and entrenching terrorist activities in the Sahel region. Rocket-propelled grenades, surface-to-air missiles, and man-portable air defence systems, previously held in the arsenal of the Government of Libya are now scattered across the Sahel region and could possibly fall into the hands of terrorist groups. Criminal groups in the region have taken the opportunity to increase recruitment and create local support networks for gathering information and supplying arms and ammunition, further facilitating transnational organized crime, such as human and drug trafficking.

12. In West Africa, some of the weapons used in the Côte d'Ivoire conflict still remain unaccounted for and pose a threat to the stabilization of the western parts of the country which border Liberia. The attack on United Nations peacekeepers at the border town of Tai underlined the security issues in the area. Also uncertain is the impact of the return into neighbouring countries of mercenaries hired and deployed during the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire.

13. In the Horn of Africa, a key concern is the situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States. Conflict over the disputed border has resulted in the outflow of more than 162,000 refugees into South Sudan and some 36,500 into Ethiopia in recent months. In February 2012, the United Nations, the African Union and the Arab League presented a tripartite proposal to provide humanitarian aid to civilians in both Government- and rebel-controlled areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile. I continue to urge the Government of the Sudan to accept the proposal without qualifications.

14. Despite the Sudan and South Sudan signing a memorandum of understanding on non-aggression and cooperation on 10 February 2012, violence and the presence of security forces from both sides continue along their shared border. On 12 March 2012, the parties initialled the Agreement on the Demarcation of the Boundary and the Framework Agreement on the Status of Nationals of the Other State and Related Matters. The agreement on boundary demarcation established mechanisms to oversee and conduct the demarcation process. I urge the parties to resolve the dispute regarding transit fees for oil.

15. The Security Council in resolution 2046 (2012) requested both parties immediately to cease all hostilities, including aerial bombardments, unconditionally withdraw all of their armed forces, including the police, to their side of the border and establish the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. The Council also asked the parties to unconditionally resume and complete all negotiations, including on the status of Abyei and other contested areas. I remain hopeful that they will resolve the pending issues quickly.

16. With regard to Somalia, on 15 October 2011, the Government of Kenya launched "Operation defend the nation" into Somalia under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. The operation followed a series of kidnappings of tourists and local and foreign aid workers in Kenya by Al-Shabaab, the militant Somali Islamic group. Joint attacks against Al-Shabaab by Kenya, Ethiopia and the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia with African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) troops have brought an increased measure of security to Mogadishu and allowed control of parts of the country to be regained. Kenyan troops were officially integrated into AMISOM on 2 June 2012. Meanwhile, the process for a return to stability in Somalia continues, with preparations for a new constitution and elections expected to be held after the end of the transitional period in August 2012.

17. Despite some progress on the issue of piracy, the waters off the coast of Somalia continue to be affected by new attacks. In its global piracy report, the International Maritime Bureau noted that attacks off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa accounted for the majority of all world piracy attacks, a total of 275 out of 439 reported in 2011.

18. The last year also saw an increase in the activities of Boko Haram, an Islamic militant group in Nigeria, including their ability to manufacture large-scale

explosives. On 20 January 2012, Boko Haram killed more than 170 people in shootings and bombings in the northern Nigerian commercial capital of Kano. Boko Haram attacks in other cities in Nigeria have left hundreds of civilians dead, including United Nations staff, and injured thousands of others. There are growing concerns about possible linkages and collaboration between Boko Haram and Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. In April 2012, the Heads of State of the member countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission expanded the mandate of the multinational joint task force to include a focus on cross-border threats to security, including Boko Haram.

Enhanced focus on the nexus between peace, security and development

19. The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, the report of the Secretary-General on civilian capacities, the priorities of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee are being used as a basis to develop and implement capacity development guidance tools to improve the linkage between humanitarian intervention, development and conflict prevention by providing a platform for bringing conflict analysis and peacebuilding approaches into regular development programmes.

20. Similarly, the United Nations framework team, comprising UNDP and the Department of Political Affairs, has provided crucial support in conflict analysis and peacebuilding, especially in non-mission settings in Africa, by deploying peace and development advisers to assist United Nations country teams with conflict analysis and prevention and peacebuilding strategies.

III. Implementation of the recommendations in the review report

21. My review report of 2010 outlined a series of recommendations to address key issues that are likely to dominate the African agenda and that will therefore require continued focused attention. This section provides an outline of the implementation by the United Nations system of key priority areas identified in my review report.

Institutional cooperation

22. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have developed a joint programme framework, outlining common priorities for their work, alongside regional constituents and development partners. These include developing an IGAD employment policy, combating human trafficking and piracy, addressing the root causes of vulnerability to natural disasters and promoting the actors of the social economy.

23. The Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa has the mandate to enhance international support for peace and development in Africa through its advocacy and analytical work and by facilitating intergovernmental deliberations on Africa at the global level. Working with the African Diaspora Program of the World Bank, the Office supported the initiative of the Pan-African Parliament to create a framework for engagement with parliamentarians of African descent worldwide. The framework for engagement led to the first parliamentary summit of the diaspora on 22 and 23 May 2012 and the recommendations made were presented to the African Union summit held from 16 to 18 July 2012.

Conflict prevention, conflict management and peacekeeping

24. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has helped to develop a technical note on conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding. The note outlines principal strategies, including identifying the root causes of conflict and violence factors affecting children and integrating conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding into strategies to reduce risks to children.

25. The United Nations system also assisted in the development of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, including advocating for the importance of social services as a component of peacebuilding and statebuilding.

Post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery

26. The Peacebuilding Commission continued to engage with six African countries that are placed on its agenda (Burundi, Central African Republic, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone). In 2011, the Peacebuilding Fund allocated \$77.5 million to a total of 10 countries in Africa. As of June 2012, the Fund has allocated \$292 million to a total of 16 countries in Africa since its inception.

27. In Libya, the United Nations strategy is to support stabilization and peacebuilding efforts. The immediate objectives of the strategy are to provide fast-track support to the interim Government for socioeconomic stabilization, recovery and sustainable development. The United Nations system will help to promote the "decent work" agenda as a key instrument for post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding.

28. The United Nations system has also been actively participating in the South Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission. UNDP and ILO have worked to identify and promote employment opportunities within the framework of the Commission and ILO provided technical support for the South Sudan disarmament, demobilization and reintegration policy and strategy, developed and adopted by the Government of South Sudan in July 2011.

29. UNICEF has supported community-based child protection networks in Somalia to reduce discrimination and stigmatization of children from armed groups and has worked with young people to help to eradicate gun culture. In Chad, UNICEF has helped to reintegrate former child combatants using reintegration packages (life skills, training and psychosocial support) which target the family and the receiving community.

Sustained economic growth and sustainable development

30. Countries in sub-Saharan Africa continue to face the challenge of population growth and environmental degradation. Rapidly growing demands for water, food and energy affect production capacity and the environment, and failure to meet people's needs, reduce poverty, raise living standards and ensure greater equity all pose a threat to security, stability and sustainability.

Human rights

31. In the past year, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and South Africa have issued a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the Niger has presented its universal periodic review

report to the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review and the Human Rights Council. UNDP has facilitated national consultations, supported the preparation of national reports and thereafter the integration of recommendations by the Council into national frameworks and action plans in several countries, including Lesotho, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

32. The Government of South Africa requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to train government and civil society representatives on treaty body compliance to enable the completion of pending reports for the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In Somalia, OHCHR supported two dialogues in Mogadishu in which human rights defenders based in Somalia, civil society groups and Government officials reviewed the text of the draft constitution from a human rights perspective and provided their comments to the Federal Constitutional Commission.

33. In Guinea, OHCHR provided technical assistance, organized a workshop for actors and stakeholders on draft legislation on the establishment of a national human rights institution and made comments on the draft legislation.

Rule of law and the administration of justice

34. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has supported West African Member States in their efforts to strengthen the administration of justice at the national and regional level. Working closely with the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), UNODC has supported law enforcement capacity-building, cross-border collaboration and criminal justice reforms.

35. The UNODC regional office for South Africa, the Southern African Development Community secretariat, and the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization have successfully implemented a regional project aimed at enhancing the capacity of law enforcement officials in Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, as well as the Southern African region in general, to respond effectively to violence against women.

36. In South Sudan, UNDP has worked closely with Government ministries and law enforcement agencies to strengthen the rule of law. UNDP has built up the capacities of legal institutions, helped to review criminal justice procedures and bring prison conditions in line with international human rights standards, and contributed to increasing access to legal services for all.

37. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the joint office of the Department for Peacekeeping Operations and OHCHR trained 2,000 police officers in crowd control and public liberties in an electoral period. Through the protection programme and the programme on access to justice for sexual violence victims, supported by OHCHR, UNDP and the Department for Peacekeeping Operations, hundreds of women have been assisted to participate in court proceedings. The office has extended its programme on access to justice for sexual violence victims to cover 9 out of 11 provinces in the country.

IV. Persistent and emerging challenges facing Africa: the management of diversity

38. Countries in Africa are diverse. Most of them are made up of five or more communities with varying social, political, communal or faith-based identities. In addition, women make up about 50 per cent of the population and a majority of the population of nearly 1 billion is under 30 years of age. To compound this, there are community differences based on sources of livelihood (such as pastoralism or fishing) and settlement (such as desert- and forest-based communities or urban slum dwellers).

39. While diversity can be a source of creativity and positive growth, when poorly managed, diversity often becomes a source of unhealthy competition, conflict and instability. In order to effectively address conflict, reduce poverty and ensure sustainable development, it is essential for policymakers, government institutions and supporting United Nations entities to understand and help address the unique needs of diverse groups. Moreover, women and youth, or communities affected by problems such as climate change, e.g. pastoralists, forest- and desert-based groups, face distinct and specific challenges which can adversely affect development efforts or lead to conflict.

40. As I noted in my report in 2011, one of the underlying reasons behind the North African revolts was the disenfranchisement of youth and their lack of economic prospects. Similarly, in the Darfur region, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, communal tensions often arise from competition for diminishing water resources and pasture.

41. Empirical findings from the African Peer Review Mechanism process in 12 countries² which have completed the review process indicate that most economic and political problems in Africa are either precipitated or aggravated by poor management of diversity. In particular, the legacy of colonialism has left uneven development: areas that were rich in mineral resources or fertile land, or near ports and other forms of transportation, received substantial investment, while others were ignored. African States inherited these economic and sociopolitical inequalities and in some cases further entrenched them. Moreover, in certain instances, any ensuing wealth from fertile or mineral-rich regions was concentrated in the capital and in the hands of the central State. Colonial and post-colonial Governments often failed to use wealth from resource-rich areas to address local needs. As a result, many parts of the continent have remained undeveloped and marginalized and the ensuing discontent with this state of affairs has led to violence in areas such as the Niger delta in Nigeria.

42. Thus, to manage effectively the multiple and competing needs of its diverse population, reduce poverty and ensure sustainable and inclusive development and prevent conflict, Africa needs to have a critical understanding of the complexities of diversity and the unique challenges faced by diverse groups. This is crucial for

² Economic Commission for Africa, *Diversity Management in Africa: Findings from the African Peer Review Mechanism and a Framework for Analysis and Policy-Making* (Addis Ababa, 2011), available from <http://new.uneca.org/Portals/aprm/Publications/3-%20Diversity%20Management.pdf>.

creating political, economic and social governance structures that encourage nation-building in a peaceful and democratic manner.

A. The management of diversity and its impact on human and economic development

Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals with equity: reaching excluded and/or marginalized groups

43. In the past decade, African countries have made significant progress in reducing the mortality rate of children under 5 and increased immunization coverage and the percentage of the population using improved water sources. In other areas, such as education, sanitation, nutrition and the adult literacy rate, Africa has experienced a marginal increase or has been able only to stop the trend from reversing. In spite of the progress made, major disparities remain among population groups and across the rural/urban and male/female divide and in meeting the goal on maternal mortality.

44. Rural/urban disparities pose the greatest socioeconomic and political challenges to countries in Africa. Most of the economic and population growth that is taking place in Africa is urban growth. However, poor urban dwellers often face some of the worst forms of poverty and exclusion. Rising food and fuel prices means that families often spend 50-80 per cent of their income on food and fuel. There is often limited access to clean water, sanitation, electricity and health care — even though they may live close to these services. Children may be compelled to enter into dangerous and exploitative work to survive, or may drop out of school, or fail to attend all together. Such lack of access is not just a developmental problem. It is, in fact, closely linked to an explosion in urban crime, including gang activity and organized crime. Moreover, recruitment by militant and extremist groups often targets disenfranchised and discontented groups, such as youths.

45. Through "Back to school" campaigns in Côte d'Ivoire, Somalia and South Sudan, UNICEF encourages community-level engagement, distributes essential school materials and provides temporary learning spaces, when necessary, to keep children in school during and after conflict (and other crises). It also strengthens the capacity of Ministries of Education through technical assistance with policy, guidelines and system development and programme planning. Accelerated learning programmes in Angola, Liberia and Sierra Leone offer children and adolescents who have missed periods of their education, a second chance to complete primary school, mostly by compressing the curriculum.

46. Non-formal and complementary education programmes in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania promote access to primary and vocational education and, less frequently, secondary education for disadvantaged groups.

Equitable access to opportunities, public resources and basic services

47. In terms of basic service provision, access to water is a particularly sensitive issue in drought-prone areas where there is competition between farmers and pastoralist communities. While conflict over water has been an underlying factor in most low-intensity conflicts in the Horn of Africa, finding solutions to the problem can serve as a starting point for dialogue and joint community water management.

mechanisms can facilitate cooperation and reduce tensions within and between communities. Involving the community in each step of the decision-making process and ensuring that each household has equal access to resources is both an important developmental goal and also serves as a tool for conflict prevention.

48. In Somalia, joint local water management boards bring together various representatives from communities with the shared objective of water provision and access. The Community-led Total Sanitation methodology in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone and South Sudan focuses on behaviour change and participation, rather than merely supplies. It enables populations to develop their own choices about key priorities in water and sanitation and builds ownership of the subsequent resources.

49. Access to opportunities is equally sensitive in a continent where unemployment rates are sometimes higher than 20 per cent. The lack of equitable access to opportunities, particularly economic opportunity, is a growing factor in discontent, as evidenced by the North African uprisings. Narrowing the access gap, particularly for the youth, is an important step towards sustainable development, as well as the achievement of peace and stability in Africa.

50. When it comes to accessing financial resources and the support and information needed to do business, women still face significant, often structural, challenges. For example, most of the informal cross-border traders in Africa are women. Because of the informal nature of their business, risks are often high. In 2011, the International Trade Centre (ITC) worked with Governments to assist informal cross-border traders operating between Rwanda and Uganda to convert to formal small and medium enterprise status. ITC trained 189 such traders from East and Southern Africa in export procedures and trade facilitation regulations and published a simple information guide on how to register a business, comply with cross-border Customs procedures, find business support services and obtain the necessary licences and permits to export legally and safely. A larger initiative incorporating women traders from the East African Community and South Sudan is envisioned.

51. Related to this is the need to develop long-term export financing accessible to women and to support Governments in reviewing and modernizing existing land legislation, in order to give women better control and equity in land ownership, since land is often the sole form of collateral available for business financing.

Impact of climate change on ecosystems and livelihoods for vulnerable groups

52. Climate change contributes significantly to increasing disparities in access to education, nutrition, water and health and raises the risk of conflicts over life-sustaining resources. Consequently, the planning of humanitarian interventions and sustainable livelihoods needs to integrate considerations of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation so as to increase community resilience and decrease conflict potential. The better management of water and forest resources is a crucial component of both mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

53. Research conducted by the United Nations University for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees³ and by the United Nations Environment Programme,⁴ shows that environmental considerations are increasingly affecting the movement of populations in the Horn of Africa and Sahel regions, the areas projected by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to be most negatively affected by climate change in Africa. This is exacerbating long-term risks, such as pests, disease, land pressure, soil erosion, deforestation and depleted water resources, which exist regardless of climate change. The results are prolonged droughts, desertification, flash floods and land degradation.

54. Beyond the Horn of Africa and Sahel regions, erratic weather presents serious challenges to people dependent on rain for livelihoods based on farming, pastoralism and even artisanal fishing. In the context of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Millennium Development Goal No. 7 on environmental sustainability, the United Nations University project on sustainable management of marginal drylands is working in Burkina Faso, Egypt and Tunisia to foster the rehabilitation of degraded drylands. The project is enabling communities to reduce dependency on rain-fed agriculture by improving sustainable water conservation and harvesting practices, developing policy guidelines for decision makers and encouraging alternative income-generating activities in order to reduce dependence on less sustainable forms of agriculture.

B. Management of diversity, good governance and conflict prevention

Diversity and conflict

55. The reports of the African Peer Review Mechanism on African countries which have gone through the review process highlight the management of diversity, particularly communal and confessional diversity, as a key challenge facing African States.²

56. The problem of diversity-related conflict is partly a legacy of poor colonial administrative practices and the discriminatory policies of post-conflict African Governments. Many African communities were split apart by national boundaries created during the colonial era. In the immediate aftermath of independence, post-colonial Governments feared that major conflicts would be occasioned by the redrawing of boundaries and decided to maintain colonial borders. Today, however, the consequences of that decision are that ethnic or religious nationalism and sentiments of group victimization and marginalization can cover huge areas and generate conflicts that extend beyond borders. That is the case in the current situation between Chad and the Sudan and of the Tuareg people in West Africa.

57. In other instances, arbitrary and forcible integration undertaken by colonial authorities and post-colonial Governments, compounded by policies of ethnic and religious profiling and classification, have over the decades reinforced cleavage lines and in some cases created divisions that did not previously exist.

³ Tamer Afifi and others, *Climate Change, Vulnerability and Human Mobility: Perspectives of Refugees from the East and Horn of Africa* (United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security, 2012).

⁴ UNEP, *Livelihood Security: Climate Change, Migration and Conflict in the Sahel* (Geneva, 2011).

58. Because of such legacies, African States often struggle to create effective political, economic, social and cultural governance systems that are credible and truly accommodate the interests and aspirations of diverse groups. Marginalized groups begin to see the national State as incapable or unwilling to address their grievances, or worse, as being actively biased against their political, economic, social and cultural interests, such as the right to practice their religion.

Supporting States and civil society to better manage diversity

59. Inter-community or community-versus-State conflicts often arise from contests over identity and privileges, such as citizenship and the right to vote, competition over resources, services and opportunities, exclusion, domination, marginalization and unjust and inequitable power configurations. Indeed, inequality in access to resources and opportunities among the constituent groups and especially, sectional, hierarchical, discriminatory or exclusionary power relations are the key precursors of social tensions and violent conflict anywhere.² Indeed, it is the extent to which diversity is politicized and instrumentalized, rather than the types and forms of diversity in a country, that determines whether diversity will become a source of conflict and instability.

60. In societies with a high degree of politicization and instrumentalization of diversity, day-to-day issues, such as the composition of school boards, savings and credit associations, or even sports teams become paralysed by acrimonious debates over representation or lack thereof on the basis of ethnicity, race, religion and regionalism.

61. Societies with less politicized and instrumentalized differences are characterized by the acceptance that certain institutions, such as parliament, government and civil institutions, have to be representative, and constitutional arrangements are made to ensure that this is so. However, such societies also accept that merit and equal opportunity for all to compete for all positions is a better way of ensuring fairness than rigid attempts to make sure each community is represented in every facet of social life.

62. In this context, creating capable and legitimate States that enjoy the support of the population across the diversity divide is one of the critical challenges for Africa. To achieve this, a level playing field and effective and neutral oversight by Governments are critical. Also needed are civil society and community groups actively working towards cohesion, local conflict resolution and joint approaches to problem solving, as well as the active involvement and participation of all groups in finding solutions.

63. Democratic institutions which reflect the plurality of a society are one way of ensuring the inclusion and participation of everyone. However, African countries face the real and difficult question of how to improve social, economic and political pluralism and participation, including through multi-party political systems, while ensuring that political competition does not become a source of further divisions in those societies.⁵ Clearly, democracy demands freedom of association and freedom of expression. However, in some cases, this freedom has been taken to mean that political entrepreneurs have the freedom to form and deploy parties along religious,

⁵ African Peer Review Mechanism, *Country Review Report of the Republic of Rwanda*, June 2006. Available from www.eisa.org.za/aprm/pdf/Countries_Rwanda_APRM_Report.pdf.

racial or tribal lines, a practice that only serves to deepen inherited schisms. The vulnerability of some African societies to this manipulation by opportunistic entrepreneurs highlights how fragile nation-building is on the continent and the need for more legal protections for nascent democratic processes.

64. In some instances democratic elections are sold to the public as a competition between groups and the rules allow the winner to take all the spoils. Such electoral processes are often prone to violence and further entrench a negative discourse between communities. This is especially so where there is severe resource competition or discrimination, or in post-conflict or transitional societies.

65. Managing such challenges requires the building of capable and legitimate States and governance systems in which peace and security are guaranteed and sustained. Such governance systems have to be capable of creating and sustaining the type of political and legal environment suitable for equitable economic growth and access to opportunities and services, particularly the most basic ones, such as physical security, water, education and health. Such a governance system has to be created in concert with and continuously work with civil society, local organizations and the private sector to ensure the full participation of all groups, including youths, women and people with special needs, in the economic and social decision-making structures at local and national level.

66. For example, in Somalia, the United Nations system is supporting the African Union, IGAD, and the Transitional Federal Government in addressing some of these issues. Although there have been efforts to accommodate diverse political groupings in political power on the basis of clan representation, the situation is extremely complicated and requires creative approaches and strategies to accommodate diverse groups and address issues of diversity at local, national and regional levels.

Lessons from the North African uprisings on the management of diversity

67. The uprisings that have occurred in North Africa over the past year amply demonstrate that ignoring the needs, suffering and dreams of young people can unleash much social and political turmoil. As stated in the report of the United Nations Development Group entitled *Strategy of Response to Transformative Change Championed by Youth in the Arab Region*, the tidal wave of transformative change processes in the Arab region to reclaim human and national dignity inevitably reshapes the operating or enabling environment within which the United Nations works at regional and country levels. It also provides an opportunity to rethink development assistance and cooperation approaches in ways that lend more prominence to the interlocking issues of authentic democratic governance, rule of law, social justice and equity and employment-led, inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic growth.

68. The North African uprisings are triggering renewed attention to governance models and democracy trajectories, as well as to inclusive and equitable economic development driven by employment. Such models need to be particularly responsive to the needs and roles of youth and women, as well as result in social contracts with more inclusive State-society relationships and responsive and accountable citizen-centred Governments. In Egypt, where nearly 80 per cent of rural women are unregistered, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) has formed a partnership with the Ministry of the Interior

to organize the registration and issuance of identity cards to rural women. Nearly 1 million women have now been registered.

69. Addressing the root causes behind the uprisings and continuing crises in North Africa requires improved governance and rule of law. These are prerequisites for political stability, socioeconomic progress and building the credibility of the new Governments in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia and any other country in the continent. States gain legitimacy only when individuals, organizations and institutions, both in the public and private sectors, are accountable under the law and where the State ensures the physical safety of individuals, communities, institutions and infrastructure in a manner that protects rights. To achieve this, laws must be applied equally and independently adjudicated in a framework governed by the principles of transparency, integrity and justice.

70. As Governments in North Africa define and address the current and future national priorities and actions required to establish democracy, security, law and order, so the support provided by the United Nations and the international community to the countries in the region should be based on comprehensive consultations with Governments, emerging political actors and civil society.

Participation and representation: women, girls, youth and persons with disabilities

71. Africa is described as a young continent: according to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, over 60 per cent of the current population of Africa is under 30 years old. Within this demographic, women and girls make up half the population of the continent. Proper management of this demographic requires their active and substantive participation in the economic, social and political milieu. An increasing number of United Nations country programmes are engaging youths, including young girls, as agents of social change, enhancing their capacity to engage in civic action such as volunteerism, community development and peaceful conflict resolution.

72. In partnership with nine other United Nations agencies and the Government, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has initiated a joint programme on youth employment for the Sudan and South Sudan. UNIDO is assisting in building the capacity of Government and private partner organizations for entrepreneurship and short-term technical skills training and providing training packages to youth.

73. An often overlooked demographic is that of people living with disabilities and special needs. ILO notes that persons with disabilities constitute about 15 per cent of any population. About 80 per cent of children with disabilities in developing countries do not have access to basic education. Conflicts increase the number of persons with disabilities, including ex-combatants, and post-conflict reintegration cannot be successful if the needs of persons with disabilities are not taken into account. The proper management of diversity in Africa requires that the needs and contributions of persons with disabilities be better thought out and included in policy planning and implementation.

74. The participation of women is also a key challenge. Evidence shows that in times of social, economic, political and environmental crises, including conflicts, women suffer disproportionately because of their already unequal status. Social and political crises often translate into loss of employment and income and the challenge

of finding new jobs, as well as depreciation in the value of their micro-, small and medium enterprises and the inability to recapitalize, with implications for their dependants.

75. To address such setbacks, United Nations country teams must work with Governments to strengthen women's access to and participation and representation in the institutions of social and political dialogue, and address gender-based violence, including rape and sexual assault, as a weapon of war. Many African countries are increasingly using affirmative action measures, including quotas and equal opportunity policies, as a tool for diversity management to strengthen the participation and representation of women in national institutions and processes. With regard to sexual violence, UN-Women and the Department for Peacekeeping Operations have jointly developed a gender-sensitive predeployment training programme on conflict-related sexual violence in peacekeeping for troop-contributing countries such as Kenya.

Social exclusion and its contribution to terrorism and transnational organized crime

76. Terrorism and transnational organized crime are partly fuelled by the ineffective management of socioeconomic diversity. Organized crime syndicates and terrorist groups exploit socioeconomic vulnerabilities, such as high unemployment, poverty, endemic corruption and social exclusion. Societies affected by conflict, political transition and economic or social crises face the unavoidable challenge of crime, including a surge in organized criminal activity. Temporary weaknesses in governance, such as weak border controls and poor law enforcement operational capacity, can create avenues for extremist groups and terrorists. Indeed, a number of post-conflict countries in Africa face significant levels of poverty and political instability, making them easy prey for organized criminal syndicates and terrorist groups.

77. Under the overall framework of its regional programme for West Africa for the period from 2010 to 2014, UNODC is supporting West African Member States in addressing evolving security threats. UNODC provides technical assistance and capacity-building packages to law enforcement in the region, with the aim of helping to curb terrorism, the illicit flow of drugs, human trafficking, counterfeit medicines and arms proliferation.

78. Together with the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA)/the Department of Political Affairs, the Department for Peacekeeping Operations and INTERPOL, UNODC, under the West Africa Coast Initiative, has worked to address illicit drug trafficking and organized crime in West Africa, through enhanced national institutions and cross-border collaboration among ECOWAS Member States.

79. Despite this, West Africa continues to be a key transit route for drugs from Latin America to Europe and the potential for instability and worsening peace and security demands more effective strategies in line with the principle of shared responsibility between transit and receiving countries.⁶ This is particularly so because infiltration by terrorism and transnational organized crime in the region

⁶ See UNDOC, *The Transatlantic Cocaine Market* (Vienna, 2011).

siphons off huge resources that would otherwise be devoted to promoting sustainable development.

C. Tools and processes for the management of diversity

80. Diversity is a living reality. In fact, the effective management of diversity must begin with perceiving it as an asset rather than a liability. Diversity creates a large variety of cultures, traditions, languages and ways of living, which can be sources of knowledge, initiative and cross-pollination of ideas and therefore hold great potential for development.

81. Countries which have been successful in managing diversity use a variety of tools and processes. At the political level, the management of the interests of multiple groups has often been done through proportional representation in decision-making institutions, as well as through judicial and law enforcement structures. Proportional representation is mostly utilized during elections, either through the reservation of seats for certain groups on electoral rolls, or through the establishment of councils of minorities which are to be consulted on legislative bills or policies of special relevance or interest to them. This allows diverse groups the space to exercise their political rights, but often poses a risk of continued domination by the majority group, since it tends to have the highest numbers of representatives in such an arrangement.

82. Other tools for managing diversity are the processes and laws that make society a welcoming place for all. Countries such as South Africa have created a policy of recognizing minority languages as national or official languages and making public documents available in those languages. This increases ownership and identification with the unitary State. It also meets the fundamental need for the recognition and respect that all people want for their languages, cultures, religions, traditions and histories. In other countries, such as the United Republic of Tanzania, the use of a single local language not identified with one community but used by many to serve as the official language has helped to create the same unifying effect.

83. States have also explored decentralization as a tool for managing diversity. In some instances, this may include granting some form of territorial autonomy and fiscal control to autonomous regions and counties over local affairs, resources and development budgets. Such autonomy can be limited, as in the case of simple decentralization, where a national budget agreed at national level is implemented locally by local authorities. It can also be more expansive, with budgets allocated to regional governments which then decide what projects to undertake. It can also be complete, as in the case of Zanzibar in the United Republic of Tanzania, where, although the island is an integral part of the nation State, it retains its own government, parliament, and most other government institutions, except an army.

84. Federalism is one of the forms of decentralized autonomy that has been most explored in Africa as a device for managing diversity and it has been particularly popular, as it appears to be the best way to guarantee power-sharing, local autonomy and fiscal decentralization, equity and local resource control. However, this approach is not without its weaknesses. Decentralization and autonomy processes often come with huge costs and complexities, particularly in the relationship between the central State and regional governments. There are also concerns that

such solutions run the inherent risk of encouraging a sense of difference and, instead of helping a country work towards unity, only serve to make it permanently divided.

85. Beyond forms of autonomy for regions and groups, in countries such as Burundi and Somalia, peace negotiations have entailed drafting constitutions that support a unitary Government but stipulate a clear formula for balanced representation of groups at the Cabinet level and in Government positions.

86. Even with political representation resolved, countries can still suffer intercommunal or group-versus-State conflict if law enforcement is not perceived as being equitable. Minority participation in, acceptance of, and sense of ownership in the security sector is particularly sensitive, as representative police and security forces are directly linked with lower levels of conflict in diverse societies. Indeed, equitable access to jobs in, and the ability to obtain protection and other services from, the security and law enforcement sectors is important for long-term stability. The military or police can be a unifying institution, reflecting and creating bonds between the diverse elements of a society in order to strengthen cohesion and operate optimally, helping to forge a national vision of security that transcends different identities, and providing security for vulnerable groups, including women, girls and minority men.

87. In countries where conflict between communities has already occurred or where polarization is a problem, there is a need to strengthen sanctions against ethnic and religious incitement and deliberate politicization of differences. There is also a need for a civic education strategy that works towards creating a common national identity, enhancing social cohesion, and promoting non-violent forms of conflict resolution and the values of collaborative living.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

88. Political stability and equitable and sustainable growth require the effective management of diversity. The challenge of the management of diversity lies in creating institutional and political arrangements and an infrastructure that enable major societal divisions to be moderated and reconciled. Without proper management of diversity there is no successful nation-building. Successful nation-building happens when the community of citizens live in peace with each other and work towards the improvement of their mutual economic and social well-being under a shared system of effective and inclusive institutions.

89. The effective management of diversity is therefore a critical requirement for the social and economic transformation of Africa. Instituting the structural changes in socioeconomic and political governance which are essential for fostering the proper management of diversity is the first step in addressing the challenge. To achieve this, there is a need to build capable State institutions that advance the security, sociopolitical and economic well-being of all citizens.

90. To this end, I call on African Governments, with the support of the United Nations system and the international community, particularly the development partners and international financial institutions, to work towards greater social protection for the most vulnerable groups, with a view to strengthening human capital, reducing vulnerability and promoting equity, employability and productivity.

91. I urge the United Nations system and the international community to work towards a more integrated approach to addressing peace, security, development and humanitarian and human rights issues in the Sahel region, and to continue to support African countries in their efforts to strengthen the rule of law, reform their security sectors and implement international human rights standards at the national level.

92. I call on the United Nations system, the international community and, in particular, the development partners to support efforts in disaster risk reduction, sustainable livelihoods and community resilience in areas affected by climate change, both as part of a sustainable development agenda, but also as a critical element of conflict prevention and mitigation.

93. I urge African Governments, with the support of the United Nations system, to identify and implement inclusive and equitable policies that narrow the gap of access to basic social services and economic opportunities, particularly for young people, women and other marginalized groups, as this is an important step towards the achievement of sustainable peace and stability in the continent.

94. I further urge the United Nations system to support national efforts to clarify access and rights to natural resources, such as fertile land and water, land tenure and access to justice, as a prerequisite for effective national, local and regional governance.

95. I call on the United Nations system to support African Governments in initiating and implementing processes through which young people can be actively and effectively involved in peacebuilding and Statebuilding efforts.

96. I reiterate the commitment of the United Nations system to work with Member States, particularly through UN-Women and the mainstreaming of gender issues, to strengthen women's participation and representation in decision-making processes and in social, economic, cultural and political dialogue and to fight against discrimination and gender-based violence.

97. I call on the United Nations system, the international community and all partners to strengthen their support to African countries in their democratic nation-building efforts. In particular, I call for support to national processes and policies which promote inclusive and participatory political systems; credible and transparent electoral processes which ensure equitable representation of minorities in representative bodies; and institutions which address economic and political inequalities as a means also of preventing grievance-based conflicts.

98. I call on the United Nations system, the African Union and regional economic communities in Africa and the international community to look again at how to create effective strategies to address the significant challenge of transnational organized crime, particularly in post-conflict or fragile States, in line with the principle of shared responsibility between transit and receiving countries.

99. I encourage civil society in Africa, particularly religious and local grass-roots organizations, to initiate and develop civic education strategies aimed at building a common national identity, social cohesion, non-violent forms of

community dialogue and conflict resolution, and in promoting the values of collaborative and peaceful coexistence.



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The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order

Sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Advancement of women

The situation in the Middle East

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support: causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Promotion and protection of human rights

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Strengthening of the United Nations system: central role of the United Nations system in global governance

Note verbale dated 11 July 2012 from the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary-General and, in its capacity as Chair of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, has the honour to forward to the General Assembly herewith the text of the following four resolutions adopted by the 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Kampala from 31 March to 5 April 2012:

* A/67/150.



- Redistribution of power, not just wealth: ownership of the international agendas (agenda items 16, 20 (a), 28 and 119 (c); see annex I)
- Access to health as a basic right: the role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children (agenda items 28 and 114; see annex II)
- Inter-Parliamentary Union initiative for an immediate halt to the bloodshed and human rights violations in Syria, and the need to ensure access to humanitarian aid for all persons in need and to support implementation of all relevant Arab League and United Nations resolutions and peace efforts (agenda items 36 and 70; see annex III)
- Promoting and practising good governance as a means of advancing peace and security: drawing lessons from recent events in the Middle East and North Africa (agenda items 27 (b), 36 and 64 (b); see annex IV)

The Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations kindly requests the Office of the Secretary-General to circulate the present letter and its annexes as a document of the General Assembly.

**Annex I to the note verbale dated 11 July 2012 from the
Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General**

[Original: English and French]

**Redistribution of power, not just wealth: ownership of the
international agendas**

**Resolution adopted unanimously by the 126th Assembly of the
Inter-Parliamentary Union
(Kampala, 5 April 2012)**

The 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Convinced that the governance structures of international institutions must be democratized so as to ensure that representative voices of all the world's people are heard,

Mindful that it is extremely urgent to respond effectively to acute and increasing global challenges transcending national borders, all of which threaten the future of humanity and include climate change, the sustainability and security of natural resources, the food crisis, lack of respect for human rights, the failure of financial systems and international trade arrangements, international terrorism and organized crime,

Aware that the priorities of existing multilateral institutions and forums are too often dominated by the interests of certain powerful States and their economies, and that the preoccupations of these States frequently marginalize the needs of those nations and peoples most exposed to the consequences of the economic, social, cultural and political crises with which the multilateral institutions endeavour to grapple,

Considering that the great powers disproportionately generate the very challenges that preoccupy them and affect the world as a whole,

Recognizing that lasting stability and security depend on the representative, transparent, accountable and effective nature of political systems and their institutions, and that this holds true at the neighbourhood, local, provincial, national and international levels,

Concerned that there remains a high degree of underrepresentation of women in positions of power, not only in parliaments and government, but also in international institutions such as the United Nations and the World Bank, and that gender mainstreaming is greatly needed to enable women to participate in and contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Mindful that the effective participation of women in all spheres of decision-making and at all levels is crucial for relevant, successful and effective policies, and that the ownership of the agendas of global political institutions must therefore belong to all their constituent members and reflect their different perspectives,

Considering that speedy reform is essential at all levels to provide for inclusive and democratic decision-making and problem-solving and to combat alienation and instability,

Recalling that the preamble and Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations spell out the objectives: "to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, ... to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, ... to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural and humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion",

1. *Expresses its conviction* that it is imperative for international institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization, to take immediate steps to ensure that their structures and arrangements for governance — including the preparation of agendas, voting arrangements, decision-making processes, records of proceedings and methods of appointing chief executives — are made transparent and genuinely democratic and that all staff appointments are based on merit while seeking to achieve geographical, ethnic and gender balance;

2. *Calls* for the establishment alongside the Group of 20 of an inclusive and fully representative global economic council, whose mission would be to coordinate the action of the United Nations and its Member States in the economic and social spheres, and notes that such a global economic council could result from reforms to the current United Nations Economic and Social Council;

3. *Strongly recommends* that the appointment of the United Nations Secretary-General be an open and transparent process aimed at finding the most competent and qualified person for the task;

4. *Demands* reform of the membership of the United Nations Security Council in the near future, particularly regarding its permanent members, that is adapted to the new power balances in the world and gives the Security Council the credibility and effectiveness that it needs in the twenty-first century to promote peace and international security, as distinct from the post-1945 era;

5. *Appeals* for all appointments within the United Nations system to be made transparently and on the basis of merit while striving to ensure geographical, ethnic and gender balance;

6. *Calls* for mandatory registers of lobbyists or accredited observers and bodies to be introduced at the national and international levels of policy- and decision-making wherever applicable and in accordance with the law in order to ensure that their actions are more transparent and citizens are better informed about them;

7. *Believes* that, notwithstanding the current financial and economic concerns, climate change, by far the greatest challenge facing humanity, should be consistently and effectively addressed through a fair, transparent and equitable process, fully engaging all sections of civil society and respecting the principles of

the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular equity and common but differentiated responsibilities;

8. *Calls* for sustainable development to be given the highest political priority and welcomes the proposal of the Global Sustainability Panel in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to create a global sustainable development council;

9. *Strongly encourages* compliance with the requirements of equity and renewal of political commitment to sustainable development based on the Rio principles, both of which should be key objectives of Rio+20 and vital components of legitimate global governance;

10. *Calls upon* parliamentarians to advocate strongly these priorities and work for immediate action by their governments to ensure their rapid implementation;

11. *Also calls upon* parliamentarians to advocate special measures and incentives to facilitate the inclusion of women from all walks of life in decision-making and agenda-setting processes at the local, national, regional and international levels;

12. *Further calls upon* parliamentarians to encourage international institutions to revitalize the women's agenda globally and to mainstream gender in their objectives, structures and work;

13. *Appeals* to parliamentarians to strive to generate widespread public understanding of why these priorities are essential and why any delay in implementing them can no longer be tolerated;

14. *Resolves* to ensure that the Inter-Parliamentary Union undertake an annual review of progress worldwide in the areas of integrity, accountability, inclusiveness and fully representative democracy at all levels of power.

**Annex II to the note verbale dated 11 July 2012 from the
Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General**

[Original: English and French]

**Access to health as a basic right: the role of parliaments in
addressing key challenges to securing the health of women
and children**

**Resolution adopted unanimously by the 126th Assembly of the
Inter-Parliamentary Union
(Kampala, 5 April 2012)**

The 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recognizing the United Nations Millennium Declaration (2000), which established eight Millennium Development Goals,

Underscoring that a human-rights approach is fundamental to achieving those Goals,

Noting that Millennium Development Goal 4 aims to reduce the under-five child mortality rate by two thirds between 1990 and 2015 and that Goal 5 aims to reduce the maternal mortality ratio by three quarters between 1990 and 2015,

Concerned that the funding gap to ensure universal access to reproductive health remains unacceptably high and that donor and developing countries need to step up their commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 5,

Drawing attention to the fact that improvements in maternal and child health require progress related to poverty and hunger (Goal 1), access to education (Goal 2), gender equality and the empowerment of women (Goal 3), and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and malaria (Goal 6),

Underscoring that the international community has committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

Concerned that in 2008 an estimated 358,000 women worldwide died from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth, and underscoring that 99 per cent of these deaths occurred in developing countries,

Also concerned that in 2010 an estimated 7.6 million children died before reaching their fifth birthday, with 41 per cent dying in their first month, and that over 170 million children under 5 worldwide are affected by stunting,

Deeply concerned that maternal and child mortality rates remain unacceptably high globally and that many countries are not on track to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5,

Recognizing that less than half of all pregnant women in sub-Saharan Africa and only half of all pregnant women in Southern Asia are attended to by skilled health professionals, including midwives, during labour and delivery, which is one of the major factors contributing to maternal and newborn deaths; that midwives are

in short supply in many developing countries; and that there is an urgent need, particularly in countries with high maternal mortality rates, to provide assistance in the recruitment, training and support of professional midwives,

Also recognizing that lack of access to quality sexual and reproductive health services and supplies, in particular family-planning services, which include contraceptives, is a major contributing factor to maternal mortality,

Noting that ineffective and poorly resourced health systems, particularly the lack of human resources for health and inaccessible health-care facilities, are key impediments to improved health outcomes,

Also noting that the burden on health professionals in many developing countries could be lightened by improvements in health governance, including measures to expand and improve access to skilled birth attendant services,

Reiterating that universal access to reproductive health is one of the targets of Millennium Development Goal 5 (b),

Concerned that contraceptive prevalence rates are low and the need for family planning and level of unwanted pregnancies are high in many countries with worrisome maternal mortality rates, particularly among adolescents, and that international assistance for family planning has diminished significantly since the year 2000,

Considering that unwanted pregnancies are disproportionately high among young unmarried girls, who also run the highest risk of pregnancy-related morbidity and mortality,

Noting that unsafe abortions account for 13 per cent of maternal deaths,

Also noting that although maternal mortality is the leading cause of death among adolescent girls in most developing countries, adolescent girls are most likely to give birth without skilled birth attendants,

Further noting that young people remain disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS, accounting for 41 per cent of all new infections among 15- to 49-year-olds, and that young women between the ages of 15 and 19 are particularly vulnerable because of gender inequalities, sexual violence, early marriage, intergenerational relationships and more limited access to education,

Aware of the importance of providing information, education and services that are appropriate to people's age and needs throughout the life cycle,

Affirming that comprehensive sex education that is age-appropriate, gender-sensitive and evidence-based is crucial if young people are to be provided with the knowledge and skills they need to make informed decisions about their sexuality and given the means to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and AIDS,

Aware that a critical window to improve children's health and secure their prospects for lifelong development through adequate nutrition exists between pregnancy and a child's second birthday, so as to guarantee them an appropriate role in the country's long-term development with the capacity to assimilate what they learn through the education system,

Affirming the commitment to uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Considering the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995),

Recalling the political declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in June 2011, which committed to working towards the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS by 2015 and to substantially reducing AIDS-related maternal deaths,

Also recalling resolution 11/8 on preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights, adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council on 17 June 2009,

Welcoming the resolution on eliminating maternal mortality and morbidity through the empowerment of women, adopted by consensus at the fifty-fourth session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women,

Appreciating the commitment made at the Group of Eight Summit held in Canada in June 2010 to allocate \$7.3 billion to carry out initiatives in the least developed countries, to contribute to implementing the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health launched by the United Nations Secretary-General and the commitment made at the fifteenth African Union Summit of Heads of State (Uganda, 2010) to fulfil the pledges taken at the Abuja Summit by allocating 15 per cent of the overall State budget to health,

Mindful of the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action, as well as the 2011 Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation,

Considering previous resolutions of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in particular those pertaining to the Millennium Development Goals, women's and children's health, and gender equality and human rights, and the outcome document of the Sixth Annual Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament held in 2010,

Affirming that enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is an internationally recognized human right,

Aware that gender is a key determinant of health and that the causes of many of the differences and inequalities between women's and men's health status are social, economic and cultural,

Underscoring that the enhancement of women's and children's health is much more than a policy goal and that States have an obligation to respect, promote, protect and fulfil women's, children's and adolescents' right to health on a non-discriminatory basis,

Committed to realizing the goals of the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health and the recommendations of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health, and underscoring the centrality of parliamentary action therein,

Encouraged by the increasing parliamentary attention in the national, regional and international spheres, and resources being devoted to reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health,

Noting, however, that progress in reducing maternal and child mortality has been uneven across regions and within countries, and that this must be addressed as a matter of urgency,

Stressing that special attention must be given to the health needs and rights of women, newborns, children and adolescents who belong to one or multiple vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including those in the poorest households, living in rural and remote areas, and affected by HIV/AIDS, adolescent girls, indigenous women and children, migrant women and children, refugee and internally displaced women and children as well as those in humanitarian, conflict and post-conflict situations, sex workers, and women and children with disabilities, and recognizing the importance of introducing measures to reduce inequalities and of commitment to equality of access and outcome for these disadvantaged groups,

Underscoring that equal access to quality education and sexual and reproductive education for all women, children and adolescents is a key intervention that can reduce health inequities and improve health in cases of communicable and non-communicable diseases,

Also underscoring that efforts need to be focused on young people as young men and women, married or unmarried, need access to sexual and reproductive health information and services,

Further underscoring, in keeping with the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action and key actions for its further implementation, the importance of universal access to post-abortion care and access to safe abortions where they are legal,

Underlining that most maternal and child deaths are preventable and that many are the result of conditions that may be avoided through immunization or treated by well-known and cost-effective interventions,

Convinced that the rationale for prioritizing women's, newborn, children's and adolescent health in development strategies is compelling and that the need to do so is indisputable,

Emphasizing the need for parliamentarians and governments to tackle the problems of ill health caused by the smoking of tobacco and tobacco products, to coordinate efforts to protect adults and children from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke, to deplore the activities of the tobacco companies in targeting markets in least developed countries and developing countries, and the need for all countries to adopt the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control,

1. *Calls upon* all parliamentarians, both men and women, and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to take all possible measures to generate and sustain the political will as well as the appropriate resources needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, and to put in place the policies and commitments needed for the post-2015 period;

2. *Encourages* parliamentarians to collaborate and build partnerships with relevant stakeholders to achieve the health-related Millennium Development Goals,

working closely with governments, civil society, local communities, health-care professionals, academics and research institutions, multilateral organizations, global funds and foundations, the media and the private sector;

3. *Recommends* that national parliaments, regional parliamentary assemblies and the Inter-Parliamentary Union hold regular debates on progress towards the realization of Millennium Development Goals 3, 4, 5 and 6 and target 1.C;

4. *Calls upon* the parliaments of States that have not yet done so to support ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, as well as the relevant Optional Protocols, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and to commit to the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health;

5. *Urges* parliamentarians to closely monitor the domestic implementation of international, regional and national human rights instruments so as to ensure that all health-related obligations and recommendations, including those under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, are fully implemented and respected by all levels of government, and calls upon parliaments to participate in the deliberations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and to seek the support of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians;

6. *Recommends* that parliaments request annual updates on the steps taken by their governments to implement international human rights instruments and programmes related to health and gender equality;

7. *Encourages* parliaments to include gender impact assessments with the introduction of all health-related legislation, and also encourages the Inter-Parliamentary Union to facilitate exchanges among its member parliaments so as to build capacity in this area;

8. *Invites* parliaments to see to it that national health policies and strategies incorporate a gender perspective, and that education of health-care workers and research take full account of the existing gender differences in health;

9. *Urges* parliaments to introduce or amend legislation to guarantee equal access to health services for all women and children without discrimination, and to provide free essential health services for all pregnant women and children;

10. *Also urges* parliaments to establish specialized parliamentary committees on women and children, to monitor progress on the implementation and ratification of resolutions and declarations on women and children, and to address women's and children's health issues more comprehensively;

11. *Further urges* parliaments to pass laws explicitly criminalizing all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic and sexual violence and in situations of armed conflict, and other forms of violence such as forced sterilization,

forced and early marriage and female genital mutilation, and calls upon parliaments to enact laws to prevent violence and provide support and reparation to survivors;

12. *Calls upon* parliaments to use the oversight and accountability tools at their disposal throughout the budgetary process, as well as innovative financing approaches, to ensure that adequate domestic financial resources are allocated for sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, and for achieving Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6 at the national level;

13. *Requests* parliaments to ensure that the domestic funds and aid allocated to women's and children's health are released and used for the relevant programmes;

14. *Calls upon* parliamentarians to use the oversight and accountability tools at their disposal to work to ensure that all commitments made to the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health are fulfilled, and that all the recommendations of the subsequent Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health are implemented;

15. *Requests* the agencies of the United Nations system, in particular the WHO, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, to provide countries with more of the multifaceted support they need to implement policies and programmes aimed at reducing maternal and infant mortality;

16. *Calls upon* parliaments to further enhance support for education in order to improve long-term health outcomes in general and to promote individuals' contribution to society;

17. *Encourages* parliaments to advocate for lines in the health budget to be earmarked for the provision of essential sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health services to vulnerable women and children, including those in the poorest households, those living in rural areas, those who are members of indigenous communities or minority groups, those with disabilities, those living with HIV/AIDS, and adolescent girls;

18. *Also encourages* parliaments to support gender-sensitive budgeting as a tool for addressing women's health needs;

19. *Further encourages* parliamentarians to advocate for increasing the number of midwives, assistance with the recruitment, training and support of professional midwives, and the provision of accommodation for mothers, near or in the hospital if necessary, before their delivery, in order to gain access to professional and monitored delivery;

20. *Urges* parliaments to ensure that parliamentary committees entrusted with monitoring issues pertaining to health and gender equality are adequately resourced and operational;

21. *Also urges* parliamentarians in African States to establish a broadly agreed timetable for their governments to honour their commitments under the 2001 Abuja Declaration;

22. *Invites* the African States that have not yet done so to implement the Maputo Plan of Action for Africa, adopted by the African Union summit in 2006, which provides inter alia for the adoption of national road maps to reduce maternal, newborn and infant mortality in accordance with the African Union road map, and calls for the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa,

initiated and launched by the African Union in 2009, to be introduced in all countries;

23. *Calls upon* member parliaments, in particular those of the Group of Eight member countries, to use the oversight and accountability mechanisms at their disposal to monitor the fulfilment of financial commitments made towards health initiatives in the least developed countries;

24. *Urges* parliaments and their members to take all necessary measures to enhance women's effective participation and leadership at all levels of health governance;

25. *Calls upon* parliamentarians in countries providing official development assistance to work towards increasing their country's official development assistance for health and to hold their governments to account for honouring their commitments and for reporting — on the basis of common international indicators — on the proportion of official development assistance being channelled towards reproductive, women's, children's and adolescent health and the promotion of gender equality, and to ensure that these funds are audited in terms of their efficiency and effectiveness;

26. *Also calls upon* parliamentarians in countries that provide official development assistance to evaluate this spending, including through parliamentary field visits and deliberations in committees on development assistance, to ensure that it prioritizes the recipient countries, sectors, communities and programmes with the greatest demonstrated needs and vulnerabilities, and that these resources are distributed in a more equitable manner;

27. *Encourages* parliamentarians in countries that provide official development assistance to examine the degree to which their government's official development assistance is being coordinated with other donors and harmonized and aligned with the health systems, plans and priorities of recipient countries;

28. *Also encourages* parliamentarians in countries that provide official development assistance to verify that the aid programmes are implemented, in particular in the field of maternal and child health, that they are managed against results-based objectives, and that they are based on the principle of shared responsibility;

29. *Calls upon* parliamentarians to scrutinize all government health interventions to ensure they are, as far as possible, evidence-based, conform to international human rights standards, and are responsive to regular and transparent performance reviews;

30. *Also calls upon* parliamentarians to promote integrated health services, and to advocate for balanced resources to meet the needs of women and children in the pre-pregnancy, prenatal, birth, postnatal, infancy and early childhood stages, particularly through the decentralization of health services;

31. *Encourages* parliamentarians to ensure a coordinated approach to all matters pertaining to maternal and child health, such as sanitation, access to safe drinking water, the fight against malnutrition, and gender equality;

32. *Calls upon* parliamentarians to ensure free access to vaccines and medicines to protect women and children from disease;

33. *Urges* parliaments to support the training of health professionals, including midwives and birth attendants, as well as universal access to reproductive health information, services and supplies, including contraceptives;

34. *Appeals* to parliamentarians to promote the establishment and/or enhancement, before 2015, of accurate civil registration systems to register all births and deaths and causes of death, particularly in relation to women, children and adolescents;

35. *Urges* parliaments to encourage the development of national information systems that include a gender perspective and data from all health facilities and administrative sources and surveys, which should subsequently be used to inform parliamentary debates;

36. *Encourages* parliaments to take into consideration, including as part of development cooperation, the World Health Organization recommendations on maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, such as the guidelines for preventing early pregnancy and poor reproductive outcomes among adolescents in developing countries, and to support the implementation of the World Health Organization Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel;

37. *Also encourages* parliaments to explore innovative approaches to health service design and delivery, including the use of information and communications technologies such as telemedicine and mobile phones, in order to reach women, children and adolescents in remote areas, to facilitate emergency responses to births and to collect and disseminate health information as widely as possible and in accessible formats to women with disabilities, and to ensure sex education;

38. *Calls upon* parliaments to work with governments to consider the establishment of transparent domestic accountability mechanisms for maternal and child health, one form of which could be a multi-stakeholder national commission that reports to parliament;

39. *Requests* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to facilitate collaboration and exchanges among its member parliaments so as to build the capacity of parliamentarians to monitor all policy and programme areas, as well as the above-mentioned budgetary and legislative activities;

40. *Encourages* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to enhance cooperation with the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and parliamentary networks engaged in the promotion of women's and children's health and rights;

41. *Requests* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to develop an accountability mechanism based on the 2011 report of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health, entitled "Keeping promises, measuring results", to monitor the progress of member parliaments in implementing this resolution between the date of its adoption and 2015, and to publish the results of that review annually;

42. *Urges* parliamentarians to work for age-appropriate, gender-sensitive and evidence-based sex education for all young people;

43. *Also urges* parliamentarians, in keeping with the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, to ensure universal access to post-abortion care and to make sure that abortions are safe where they are legal as a means of saving the lives of girls, adolescents and women.

**Annex III to the note verbale dated 11 July 2012 from the
Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

[Original: English and French]

**Inter-Parliamentary Union initiative for an immediate halt to the
bloodshed and human rights violations in Syria, and the need to
ensure access to humanitarian aid for all persons in need and to
support implementation of all relevant Arab League and
United Nations resolutions and peace efforts**

**Resolution adopted by consensus* by the 126th Assembly of the
Inter-Parliamentary Union
(Kampala, 5 April 2012)**

The 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the resolution entitled "Strengthening democratic reform in emerging democracies, including in North Africa and the Middle East", adopted unanimously by the 124th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Panama City, 2011), which urged all parties to refrain from violence and to ensure in particular that human rights are respected, called on all governments to respect the right to peaceful self-determination of peoples and expressed concern for the humanitarian impact of the political changes in the region on vulnerable groups, particularly women and children,

Also recalling the resolution entitled "Furthering parliamentary democracy in order to protect human rights and encourage reconciliation among peoples and partnership among nations", adopted by the 110th Assembly (Mexico City, 2004), in which the Assembly underlined that the holding of truly free and fair elections based on secret balloting and universal suffrage, monitored by independent election authorities, was always of paramount importance in the establishment of parliaments reflecting national diversity and, particularly in countries emerging from violent conflict, was essential in consolidating and advancing the reconciliation process, and called on parliaments to respect the political rights of opposition parties and freedom of the press,

Expressing its solidarity and sympathy for the Syrian people, whose democratic freedoms and human rights are being systematically and brutally undermined by their own government,

Noting that sustained and unjustified violence continues to be perpetrated against the Syrian people, including the killing and persecution of protestors, human rights defenders and journalists, denial of access to medical treatment, and the torture of and violence against men, women and children,

* The delegations from Chile, Cuba, South Africa, Uganda and Viet Nam expressed a reservation on operative paragraph 12, while the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) rejected the entire resolution, which, in their view, was unbalanced.

Cognizant of the serious humanitarian crisis and dismayed by the mounting loss of life and injury being caused by this violence, largely due to armed attacks perpetrated by the Syrian Government against its own population,

Alarmed by these authorities' use of heavy military equipment, including artillery and combat tanks, against towns and other population centres and their resorting to mass murder, arbitrary detentions, forced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment of detained persons, in particular children,

Noting the need to hold to account the perpetrators of human rights violations, including those that may amount to crimes against humanity,

Also noting the League of Arab States plan of 2 November 2011 and their decisions of 22 January and 12 February 2012, respectively, agreed to by the Syrian Government, which called in particular for an immediate end to violence against protestors, the release of political prisoners, the removal of all tanks and armoured vehicles from the streets and the convening of a meeting in Cairo for dialogue with the opposition,

Further noting the declaration of the League of Arab States of 29 March 2012,

Considering the repeated demands by the United Nations and the League of Arab States for the Syrian Government to honour its commitment to the Arab League plan and to permit the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the evacuation of wounded persons,

Recalling the decisions of the thirty-first International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva from 28 November to 1 December 2011, on strengthening international humanitarian law and domestic legislation for disaster-risk reduction, addressing regulatory barriers to providing emergency and transitional shelter in a rapid and equitable manner after natural disasters, and humanitarian access and assistance,

Noting United Nations General Assembly resolution 66/253 A of 16 February 2012, which strongly condemned "the continued widespread and systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the Syrian authorities, such as the use of force against civilians, arbitrary executions, the killing and persecution of protestors, human rights defenders and journalists, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, interference with access to medical treatment, torture, sexual violence, and ill-treatment, including against children",

Recalling the statement issued by the President of the United Nations Security Council on 21 March 2012 (S/PRST/2012/6), in which the Security Council expressed its full support for the efforts of Kofi Annan, the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, and his six-point proposal to commit to the appointment of an empowered interlocutor to address the aspirations of the Syrian people; the cessation of violence; the provision of humanitarian assistance in affected areas; the release of arbitrarily detained persons; freedom of movement for journalists; and freedom of association and the right to demonstrate peacefully,

Also recalling United Nations Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009) and 1960 (2010) on women and peace and security,

Further recalling the resolutions of 29 April 2011, 23 August 2011, 2 December 2011 and 1 and 23 March 2012 of the United Nations Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, and underscoring that in its resolutions of 2 December 2011 and 1 and 23 March 2012, the Council strongly condemned the systematic and widespread violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms that the Syrian authorities continue to commit,

Underscoring its respect for the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, and rejecting any external military intervention,

Noting that the Syrian Government held discussions with the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, and that it agreed on 27 March 2012, but has not yet implemented, his six-point proposal, which envisages a United Nations-supervised ceasefire and the establishment of political dialogue between government and opposition groups,

Concerned by the grave risk to regional stability and security posed by the Syrian Government's use of violence rather than dialogue to address calls for reform,

Frustrated by the continued failure of the Syrian Government to respond to or implement the decisions and resolutions of international and regional bodies,

1. *Calls* for an immediate cessation of the violence and human rights violations and abuses in Syria and also calls for full compliance by all parties with international human rights and international humanitarian law obligations;
2. *Supports* the efforts of international and regional organizations to bring about a peaceful end to the crisis in Syria;
3. *Urges* the United Nations and the League of Arab States to redouble their efforts to assist in bringing about an end to armed violence in Syria and to address the current humanitarian crisis;
4. *Supports* the unprecedented leadership and efforts of the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States and his six-point proposal for resolving the situation in Syria;
5. *Calls upon* the Syrian Government to honour its commitment to this proposal and its earlier commitment to the Arab League Plan, including withdrawing military personnel from cities, ending the use of heavy weapons, releasing political prisoners and cooperating fully and immediately with the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to facilitate the unhindered and safe provision of humanitarian assistance and to allow the evacuation of the wounded from affected areas;
6. *Urges* the commencement of an inclusive political process in Syria to address the legitimate democratic aspirations and concerns of the Syrian people;
7. *Underscores* that this political process must be conducted in an environment free of violence, torture, fear, intimidation, discrimination and extremism;
8. *Expresses* the hope that this process can lead to an all-inclusive democratic political system, in which all citizens are equal;

9. *Underscores* the pivotal role the Inter-Parliamentary Union can play in coming to the assistance of emerging democracies, fostering political reconciliation and the peaceful settlement of conflicts, and in upholding and protecting the principles of representative democracy, human rights and gender equality;

10. *Requests* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to dispatch an international parliamentary fact-finding mission to the Syrian territories to examine the reality of the situation arising from the violence and the deliberate hampering of the activities of international and Arab relief organizations, and to issue an urgent report to the Inter-Parliamentary Union membership with a view to taking the necessary measures;

11. *Urges* parliaments to provide all necessary humanitarian assistance to all persons in Syria affected by the violence and to participate in making immediate preparations for extending such assistance, including in neighbouring countries;

12. *Supports* the continuation of diplomatic and economic sanctions on the Syrian Government until such a time as the situation improves significantly;

13. *Requests* the Inter-Parliamentary Union President to report on the implementation of this resolution at the 127th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and at the United Nations.

**Annex IV to the note verbale dated 11 July 2012 from the
Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

[Original: English and French]

**Promoting and practising good governance as a means of
advancing peace and security: drawing lessons from recent events
in the Middle East and North Africa**

**Resolution adopted by consensus* by the 126th Assembly of the
Inter-Parliamentary Union
(Kampala, 5 April 2012)**

The 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Considering that there is compelling evidence to support the positive correlation between good governance and the level of peace and security in society and the world,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which are the indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world, and reiterating our determination to foster strict respect for them (see 2005 World Summit Outcome, General Assembly resolution 60/1, para. 2),

Supporting all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States and respect their territorial integrity and political independence; refrain in international relations from threatening or using force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations; settle disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law; respect the right to self-determination of peoples remaining under colonial domination and foreign occupation; uphold non-interference in the internal affairs of States; ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; guarantee respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion; seek international cooperation when solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character; and meet in good faith the obligations assumed in accordance with the Charter (*ibid.*, para. 5),

Recognizing that good governance is the manner of governing that aims to achieve sustainable economic, social and institutional development, while promoting a healthy balance between the State, civil society and the market economy, and that there is no way of exercising it other than by serving the interests of the people,

Mindful that the role of public authorities in creating an environment for entrepreneurs to function and in determining the distribution of benefits as well as the nature of the relationship between governments and citizens is pivotal in promoting and practising good governance at the national and international levels,

* The delegation of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) expressed its opposition to the resolution because of the approach it took on good governance.

Noting that good governance leads to efficient and accountable institutions, i.e. political, judicial, administrative, economic and corporate rules that promote development and the rule of law, protect human rights and ensure that people are free to participate and be heard in decisions that affect their lives,

Also noting that the catalysts for the uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa were several and included the concentration of wealth in the hands of autocrats in power for decades, a lack of transparency in the redistribution of that wealth, corruption and, in particular, young people's refusal to accept the status quo, while spiralling food prices and famine were also determining factors,

Acknowledging that the disconnect between the demands of civil society and the response of governments, as well as a lack of government reform, might well have contributed to the protests,

Expressing its sorrow for the victims of the political processes in the Middle East and North Africa, and its solidarity with the families of those who died in their quest for freedom and justice,

Noting the undeniably positive influence of education and exposure to issues of good governance,

Recalling the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1976 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the 1981 African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which, inter alia, provide that every citizen, regardless of gender, religion or race, has a right to take part in the conduct of public affairs directly or through freely chosen representatives, and that the will of the people should be expressed through free and fair elections based on universal and equal suffrage and secret ballots, in the full exercise of the sovereignty of the people, so as to constitute the basis for the legitimate and credible authority of government,

Also recalling the resolution entitled, "Providing a sound legislative framework aimed at preventing electoral violence, improving election monitoring and ensuring the smooth transition of power", adopted by the 124th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Panama City, 2011), which calls upon parliaments, where necessary, "to undertake constitutional and legislative reform, building on international obligations and commitments and taking into account local realities, so as to provide a sound legal framework for free and fair elections that includes the adoption of electoral systems that provide for representative and inclusive outcomes, and for the smooth transfer of power",

Further recalling the above-mentioned Inter-Parliamentary Union resolution, which urges parliaments "to conduct such electoral reform through a comprehensive, inclusive and open debate that fosters the broadest possible involvement of all stakeholders, authorities, political parties, media and civil society organizations in the electoral process",

Noting that the recent events in the Middle East and North Africa have provided all countries with important lessons on democracy and freedom,

Also noting that those events have shown that people everywhere need democratic and legitimate governments based on the will of the people, expressed regularly through free and fair elections,

Further noting that it is always the people who have the right to determine their own political future based on the cultural and historical characteristics of their nation,

Reaffirming that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives and that, while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy and it does not belong to any country or region;

Also reaffirming the need for due respect for sovereignty and the right of self-determination (ibid., para. 135),

Mindful that people will not view democracy in a positive light if their livelihood is at stake and that democracy and development are inextricably linked,

Acknowledging that the experiences of other regions and of the past year tend to show that the process of democratization in the Middle East and North Africa will take a significant amount of time, given that it is often a lengthy, unpredictable and complex process, which involves changing power relations in society,

Convinced that the attainment of democracy requires extensive changes that are rooted in constitutions, electoral systems, laws and regulations related to political parties, the media, the justice system, an enabling environment for civil society and, not least, a change in attitudes, including a paradigm shift regarding the place of women in political life,

Also convinced that commitment to the principles of good governance in the management of public affairs will guarantee freedoms and the rule of law, reduce corruption, ensure fair elections, help establish systems and institutions that strive to provide the best services to all sectors of society, and be the best guarantor of political stability,

1. *Invites* all States and parliaments to consider the major lessons drawn from the Middle East, North Africa, Europe and the United States, as well as elsewhere in the world, on the need for democratic reform and for governments to provide their people with basic employment and economic opportunities, meet their citizens' demands and guarantee equal opportunities for all;

2. *Recommends* sustained investment in political reform where necessary, possibly to include the creation of independent government watchdogs, the amendment of constitutions, electoral systems, the judicial system, laws, regulations and processes related to political parties and the taking of measures to ensure the functioning of the media, the achievement of gender equality and the involvement of civil society;

3. *Also recommends* that particular attention be paid to security sector reform so that the police, intelligence services and armed forces act within the rule of law, fully respect the fundamental rights of citizens and are held to account for their acts to a democratically elected authority;

4. *Expresses its wish*, with a view to building inclusive societies, that transitional justice and the need to address the past are adequately taken into account in the transition process, in particular through the promotion of the truth,

the sentencing of perpetrators, the compensation of victims and the establishment of safeguards to avoid repeating mistakes of the past;

5. *Calls upon* all member parliaments that have not done so to ratify and ensure full implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and see to it that freedom of thought, expression and association, as well as other civil and political rights, are guaranteed;

6. *Also calls upon* parliaments to ensure the establishment of governance systems that will lead to the improvement of people's livelihoods so as to help restore faith in democratic institutions and democracy;

7. *Recommends* that leaders in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as elsewhere in the world, strive to implement policies that will help reduce economic inequality and tackle everyday problems, such as corruption, poverty and the lack of access to health services;

8. *Encourages* Inter-Parliamentary Union member parliaments to advocate for increased civic education, with a focus on the fundamental principles of democratic governance, while reflecting the diversity of histories and cultures;

9. *Urges* the international community to stand ready to help countries at their request and to support the transition process while complying with the principle of sovereignty as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in order to avoid undue influence on the situation in States and the outcome of elections;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to promote comprehensive reform of the United Nations in order to achieve world peace, security and development through respect for the principles enshrined in its Charter as well as the fair representation of nations;

11. *Encourages* States to comply with the Millennium Declaration, which calls for the promotion of peace, security and human rights and the elimination of hunger and poverty, and stipulates the importance of and right to education in the context of sustainable growth;

12. *Invites* political parties, national parliaments and governments to implement policies and mechanisms aimed at ensuring the participation of women and youth in public political and economic life;

13. *Calls upon* all parliaments to enact legislation and take specific action to enhance their transparency, design information and communication technology tools to facilitate citizens' access to relevant information on parliamentary processes, exercise their oversight function over the other branches of the State and establish mechanisms enabling them regularly and vigorously to reach out to civil society and be answerable to it;

14. *Urges* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to lend support to the democratization process under way in the Middle East and North Africa, particularly in areas relating to the process of constitutional reform and the drafting of new electoral laws, as well as the sharing of good practices for open and inclusive electoral processes that are conducive to the establishment of representative and effective parliaments;

15. *Also urges* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to design and implement a programme of technical assistance and capacity-building that supports the newly elected parliaments in the Middle East and North Africa;

16. *Further urges* donor countries and the multilateral financial institutions to honour their aid pledges to the Arab Spring countries in order to rescue their economies, protect them from recession and reduce their levels of unemployment;

17. *Appeals* to the parliaments of the countries where stolen assets have been transferred to urge their governments and banks to recover such assets;

18. *Calls* for an international parliamentary conference on the role of youth in politics in the contemporary world and current technological developments to be held under the auspices of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.



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Item 17 of the provisional agenda*

Information and communication technologies for development

Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/130.

* A/67/150.



**Report of the Director-General of the United Nations
Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the
implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/130,
including the recommendations of the Twelfth
United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on
Communication for Development**

Summary

In its resolution 50/130, the General Assembly recognized the important role of communication for development programmes in the United Nations system in enhancing the transparency of system-wide coordination within the United Nations system, and also recognized the need further to facilitate Inter-Agency cooperation and to maximize the impact of the development programmes. The United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development has provided a mechanism for sharing experiences and elaborating joint activities among United Nations system organizations and with United Nations country teams. Policy coherence, capacity-building, and monitoring and evaluation support the core value of sustainable communication in development interventions.

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	4
II. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Eleventh United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development.	4
III. Twelfth United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development.	7
IV. Communication for development in the current United Nations context	9
V. Communication for development strategies, frameworks and action within the United Nations system.	11
VI. Communication for development projects at the country level, by theme	19
VII. Conclusions and recommendations	21

I. Introduction

1. The present report is prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and is being submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session pursuant to resolution 50/130, in which the Assembly recognized the important role of communication for development programmes in the United Nations system and the need further to facilitate inter-agency cooperation and to maximize the impact of the development programmes. The report contains contributions from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), UNESCO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Bank.
2. In resolution 51/172, the General Assembly stressed the need to support two-way communication systems that enable dialogue and that allow communities to speak out, express their aspirations and concerns, and participate in the decisions that relate to their development.
3. In the same resolution, the General Assembly recognized the relevance for concerned actors, policymakers and decision makers to attribute increased importance to communication for development and encouraged them to include it as an integral component in the development of projects and programmes.
4. UNESCO coordinates the United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, which is held biennially and hosted on a voluntary and revolving basis by United Nations system organizations. The Twelfth Round Table was hosted by UNICEF in New Delhi from 14 to 17 November 2011.
5. The present report summarizes the follow-up to the recommendations of the Eleventh Round Table, the proceedings and conclusions of the Twelfth Round Table and the overall engagement of the United Nations system in the area of communication for development.

II. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Eleventh United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development

6. The two overarching recommendations of the Eleventh Round Table, held in Washington, D.C., from 11 to 13 March 2009, were: to institutionally position communication for development within the United Nations system and to strengthen monitoring and evaluation in communication for development interventions. The activities of the members of the core working group established to follow up the recommendations are set out below. The core working group included the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNESCO, UNICEF, the International Labour Organization (ILO), FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) and was coordinated by UNDP.
7. FAO organized an expert consultation, which was held in Rome in September 2011, on the theme "Communication for development: meeting today's agriculture and rural development challenges", to maximize the impact of communication for

development in agriculture and rural development and to position the practice as an organizational strategic focus. The consultation was organized in collaboration with the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the International Institute for Communication and Development. The participants concurred that FAO should take a leading role in mainstreaming communication for development in the rural development agenda and develop a relevant strategy for the organization. They adopted four recommendations, as follows: (a) to include communication for development in the vision, policy and strategic frameworks of international rural development organizations and national institutions; (b) to make communication for development relevant and compelling to key audiences; (c) to establish a multi-institutional alliance to promote and practice communication for development principles in respect of innovative agricultural systems at the country level; and (d) to facilitate national communication for development networks connecting theory, research and practice, and in improving programme standards.

8. The communication for empowerment initiative of UNDP reviewed media contexts at the national level; assessed the information and communication needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups and invited those groups to participate in decision-making processes. The findings were published in the *Communication for Empowerment: Global Report, 2010*, and underlined, inter alia, the relevance of radio for marginalized and vulnerable groups; differential access by men and women to the media; the increasing significance of mobile telephony; and the importance of legal and regulatory media environments in reducing information and communication gaps.

9. UNESCO supported pilot communication for development round tables in Ecuador, the Philippines and Uganda. They were coordinated by academic institutions in consultation with United Nations country teams, line ministries and other relevant stakeholders and were guided by a series of background papers. The five broad categories that define UNESCO media development indicators were used to support ideas and improve understanding about media landscapes and their connection to communication needs in the context of democratic development. The results of the respective round tables are set out below.

10. In respect of Ecuador, the round table addressed the concept of communication for development in terms of indigenous cultures. Participants debated the national indigenous development plan on "living well" and underlined the need for constitutional action to translate relevant principles into practice. The participants were not familiar with the term "communication for development", and expressed instead the desire to support indigenous practices that promote participation as the core of people-centred development.

11. Referenced in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2012-2018) for the Philippines, communication for development is described as a strategy to enhance effective claimholder participation, advocate for and create an enabling policy environment and enable people-centric development. It underlines that a free, independent and pluralistic media is a prerequisite for an enabling communication for development environment. The round table was organized and implemented in collaboration with the Asia Institute of Journalism and Communication.

12. The recommendations for Uganda emphasized the need for a national media assessment and a relevant strategy that would lead to the creation of a national communication for development policy. A working group was formed by Makerere

University, the round table host and organizer, to mobilize required resources. The 2012 UNESCO International Programme for the Development of Communication approved the University of Makerere proposal and granted seed funding for a national media assessment.

13. UNESCO conducted communication for development gap assessments in 2008-2010 in Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay. The United Nations country team in Rwanda and the line ministries highlighted the communication for development concept in public relations efforts and took independent capacity-building measures. The United Nations country team in the United Republic of Tanzania allocated resources to support the UNESCO community radio initiative in Zanzibar as a priority intervention. In Uruguay, civil society and academia participated in organizing a conference on communication for development, social change and participation, which was held in Montevideo in October 2010.

14. UNICEF took the lead in developing a resource pack on research, monitoring and evaluation of communication for development programmes.¹ The resource pack was produced in consultation with a United Nations panel of communication for development specialists, including from UNESCO, UNDP, FAO, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), WHO and the World Bank, as well as a 15-member international expert group. It will serve as a basis for an inter-agency proposal to further the development of research, monitoring and evaluation of communication for development in the United Nations system.

15. A knowledge management platform initiative was created to bring together the experiences of United Nations agencies and academia in fostering collaboration between ILO/International Trade Centre (ITC) and UNICEF; UNICEF and Ohio University (United States of America); FAO and Los Baños University (Philippines). Such efforts support agencies in continuing to build upon lessons learned to fulfil their respective and common learning needs and to increase communication for development benefits in field-based operations.

16. The core working group compiled communication for development case studies and evidence of United Nations practice in that area and prepared an advocacy booklet entitled "Communication for development: strengthening the effectiveness of the United Nations". The booklet is available on various websites and the Internet and is a primary resource for creating further understanding about communication for development in the United Nations system.

17. Voluntary United Nations inter-agency learning initiatives were also carried out by ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in collaboration with United Nations communication working groups in Almaty, Geneva, Moscow, New Delhi, Maldives and Haiti. A number of the initiatives included workshops on shared experiences to distinguish the difference between communications for development practices and public relations efforts. Others offered specific communication for development methods and approaches currently being applied in the United Nations system.

¹ June Lennie and Jo Tacchi, "Researching, monitoring and evaluating communication for development", United Nations Inter-agency Resource Pack on Research, Monitoring and Evaluation in Communication for Development (New York, UNICEF, February 2011).

III. Twelfth United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development

18. The theme of the Twelfth United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development was "The role of communication for development in empowering adolescent girls", which was inspired by the March 2010 United Nations joint statement issued by ILO, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and WHO, entitled "Accelerating efforts to advance the rights of adolescent girls".

19. The event was attended by around 100 representatives of over 20 civil society organizations, United Nations system organizations (for example, FAO, ITC, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, United Nations Agency for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat), UNICEF, UN-Women and WHO), the United Nations Information Centre in New Delhi, the United Nations Millennium Campaign, Government and non-governmental organizations, and donor communities. UN-Women, UN-Habitat and UNODC were first-time participants.

20. The objective of the meeting was to examine and demonstrate the potential of communication for development principles and practice in enhancing and accelerating United Nations programming efforts to advance the rights of adolescent girls and communities. Emphasis was placed on the enhancement of inter-agency collaboration within the spirit of the "Delivering as one" initiative.

21. Presentations were made at 18 parallel sessions by non-governmental organizations, adolescent girls and United Nations agencies on the realities facing adolescent girls in 2011; on ensuring participation by girls in their families and communities; and on strengthening the discipline of communication for development through improved evidence-based documentation. Twenty-five recommendations were clustered into seven broad headings and reviewed by the core working group during an internal meeting.

22. The Twelfth Inter-Agency Round Table offered an opportunity to review progress in both the conceptual and theoretical domains. Significant advancement was noted as having been achieved over the past few years. It was noted that the discipline had evolved from theories that drive information dissemination and behaviour change approaches to principles and conceptual frameworks that guide more dialogue-oriented and participatory processes, facilitate community empowerment and social change and strengthen enabling media and communication environments in order to highlight diverse voices and opinions. It was also recognized that models for intervention had broadened, providing possibilities for further examination and understanding of the drivers of change at the community, societal and policy levels.

23. UNODC underlined the need to recognize drug use among women and girls as an issue in its own right and the need to develop communication for development strategies that comprehensively address drug use prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

24. UN-Habitat shared examples that underlined the benefits of participation through its experience in building safer cities for girls. Although the agency does not have dedicated funding for communication for development, the methods and practices are ingrained in some of its work.

25. During the internal meeting of the working group, United Nations participants expressed concerns that communication for development continued to be reflected as an external communications responsibility in the United Nations system. The need to make the distinction between communication for development and external communications was re-emphasized, and United Nations agencies made a commitment to continue their work to ensure that the issue was given programmatic status and resources. Positioning communication for development at the country and regional levels and increasing the number of United Nations agencies collaborating on the issue were regarded as priorities.

26. The UNESCO-led round tables held in Ecuador, the Philippines and Uganda were cited as positive examples of collaboration. It was agreed that increased inter-agency collaboration at country level would strengthen communication for development positioning as a priority issue.

27. The uneven presence of communication for development capacity within the United Nations system, in particular at the country level, was acknowledged as a challenge. Capacity teams varied in strength and consistency across the system, as a result of budgetary allocations.

28. Agencies agreed to support UNICEF efforts to develop practical and easily adaptable tools and learning modules for communication for development programming and capacity strengthening based on the research, monitoring and evaluation framework resource pack.

29. Participants underlined that the United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development remained an important forum for United Nations system organizations and for their interaction with civil society organizations. The mechanism was considered to be a crucial element in the progress of the collaborative work of United Nations organizations. It was suggested that a communication for development "webinar" should be tailored to each agency's needs and be designed to reach out to senior management and external participants in order to strengthen the visibility of the Round Table.

30. FAO confirmed that it would host the Thirteenth United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development in 2013.

Recommendations

31. The recommendations are set out below.

1. Strengthen advocacy efforts

(a) Advocate for communication for development principles and approaches through all available United Nations agency and inter-agency mechanisms, in particular through United Nations resident coordinators;

(b) Develop a communication for development advocacy strategy for the United Nations system.

2. Enhance capacity-development efforts

(a) Leverage knowledge and experience on communication for development in collaboration with United Nations country teams, Governments and civil society (broad-based partnerships);

(b) Produce and continually add to a compendium of available communication for development learning opportunities and resources;

(c) Strengthen communication capacities to increase access to and the use of information and communication technologies, in particular by the most marginalized groups in society.

3. Strengthen research, monitoring and evaluation of communication for development

Expand upon the outline produced by UNICEF for an inter-agency resource pack on research, monitoring and evaluation in communication for development, mobilize resources and develop a toolkit, utilizing existing civil society and United Nations tools.

4. Knowledge management and information-sharing

Consolidate existing and new good practices and ensure wide dissemination to all stakeholders.

IV. Communication for development in the current United Nations context

32. The principles of communication for development in the United Nations context are pro-poor and people-centred. They significantly support the value of citizen participation, the voice of citizens and enabling environments, all of which are essential in democratic governance and which contribute to relevant actions related to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

33. United Nations system organizations, such as FAO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO and UNICEF, apply and promote the principles through one of the following: (a) behaviour and social change initiatives; (b) policy; (c) advocacy for enabling legislative environments; and (d) support for strengthening enabling media and communication environments. Efforts are being made to promote relevant policies and strategies that will satisfy country-level needs, harmonize diverse United Nations mandates and have a concrete and focused impact at the local level.

34. UNESCO interventions are carried out by promoting freedom of expression and information. Upstream actions in this regard include using such tools as media development indicators; supporting fair regulatory environments and standard-setting media development practices, such as gender sensitive indicators and the *Media and Information Literacy Curriculum for Teachers*;² ensuring the safety of journalists; and forming strategic alliances and partnerships. Within the context of the United Nations Development Framework, downstream actions focus on supporting dialogue among country-level actors and stakeholders; building media

² Available from <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0019/001929/192971e.pdf>.

institutional and professional capacities; supporting professional networks; and strengthening collaboration with United Nations resident coordinators and United Nations country teams.

35. UNICEF ensures that communication for development cuts across all of its programme sectors.³ It facilitates enabling environments that create spaces for a plurality of voices and community narratives; encourages listening, dialogue, debate and consultation; ensures active and meaningful participation of children and youth; and promotes gender equality and social inclusion. It applies communication for development practices to build the self-esteem and confidence of care providers and children by linking community perspectives and voices with subnational and national policy dialogue and by addressing the physical, cognitive, emotional, social and spiritual aspects of a child's well-being.

36. FAO is working to develop a corporate strategy to promote communication for development in agriculture and rural development policies and programmes. It has identified four main priorities to strategically position communication for development in that context, as follows: (a) including it in the vision, policy, and strategic framework of international rural development organizations and national institutions; (b) making it relevant and compelling to its audience; (c) establishing a multi-institutional alliance to promote and implement communication for development principles and practices within agricultural innovation systems at the country level; (d) facilitating national communication for development networks in order to connect theory, research and practice, and systematically improve programme standards.

37. Communication for development is used effectively across all of UNDP programming and is regarded as a critical driver in combating the political and social exclusion of poor people and in securing the participation essential to building a sense of common or national ownership of development plans and governance processes. It is promoted through all practice areas in line with the UNDP 2008-2013 strategic plan, which recognizes the establishment of information and communication channels as a key approach to promoting inclusive participation as an essential component of pro-poor development and to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

38. ESCAP employs communication for development as a critical element of empowerment, in particular for those who suffer from unequal opportunities and are marginalized and vulnerable. Work is done in this regard for the benefit of poor people, women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, youth, migrants and people living with HIV. Partners have traditionally been Governments and, increasingly, civil society organizations and the private sector. Exhibitions and campaigns are important communication events that advocate for beneficial change.

39. The World Bank uses the term "operational communication" to describe a strategic and comprehensive approach that entails integrating communication elements in upstream project design to address issues from a risk perspective. The World Bank's results, accountability and openness agenda recognizes the growth of information and communication technologies and has also contributed to the evolution of communication for development as an integrated, comprehensive and strategic approach within the organization.

³ Child protection, education, health, HIV and AIDS, nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene.

V. Communication for development strategies, frameworks and action within the United Nations system

United Nations Development Programme

40. The Articulating Territorial and Thematic Networks for Human Development initiative is a UNDP global programme currently implemented in about 20 countries that promotes a decentralized approach to local governance and development, local-level aid effectiveness and multilevel governance. It employs communication for development approaches and methodologies to ensure inclusive participation, improved coordination and better service delivery that meets the needs of local populations. Participatory working groups, at the core of its programmes, facilitate horizontal and vertical policy dialogues that empower local actors and allow communities to define their development priorities. Examples are illustrated in the paragraphs below.

41. In Colombia, 9,000 people took part in more than 60 subregional and thematic events to formulate a departmental development plan entitled "Adelante Nariño", and over 80 local and international organizations participated in the formulation of a development strategy for international cooperation.

42. The UNDP country office in Belarus used a communication for empowerment approach to improve local community access to information resources in the regions of the country affected by the Chernobyl accident, extending opportunities to engage with communities worldwide. Six information and communications technology (ICT) access centres in district libraries, rural houses of culture, and museums have been set up by the Development of International Chernobyl Research and Information Network project. They each contain five personal computers with free access to high-speed Internet.

43. Creative and inclusive story retelling, *inter alia*, were used as communication for development methods to address intercommunal conflict between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots by the UNDP Action for Cooperation and Trust programme in Cyprus. The UNDP project on multiperspectivity and intercultural dialogue in education, implemented in collaboration with the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research, deals with issues that include complex narratives on both sides and reflects an approach that demonstrates willingness to regard a situation from a different point of view. UNDP has also been engaged in an ongoing public awareness campaign to promote shared narratives, intercultural understanding and critical thinking through social media, video blogs, radio programmes and television public service announcements. The Cyprus experience has been fully documented and is now in the process of being introduced in Lebanon.

44. In Burundi, a United Nations Volunteers project worked with Burundian women to promote peace by reintroducing traditional knowledge and ancient proverbs that emphasize Burundi's common heritage as a way to heal divides between the Hutu and Tutsi minorities. The programme engaged the elderly in documenting ancient proverbs and metaphors and then retelling them to young people, who were encouraged to reflect on, internalize and discuss the stories from their own points of view.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

45. UNESCO, inter alia, promotes community media as an effective means of participatory communication and as a building block for the attainment of the universal rights to freedom of expression and access to information. Its international programme for the development of communication supported 52 community radio stations worldwide (2010-2011). In addition, it drew experience from community media experts in the preparation of the publication *Community Media: Good Practices Handbook*, which is available online and provides an overview of the issues surrounding the sustainability and efficiency of the sector. UNESCO also provided technical advice for community radio forums and stations in countries such as Liberia, Nepal, Solomon Islands, and Somalia. Overall technical support to improve legal and regulatory frameworks are ongoing in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Jordan, India, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Panama, Sao Tome and Principe, Sri Lanka, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uzbekistan.

46. Community radio is increasingly recognized as the most accessible, participatory and affordable medium available to marginalized and low-income populations. Limitations in electronic media policies, and legislative and regulatory frameworks inhibit safe, fair, free, independent and pluralistic practices. UNESCO has therefore placed a priority in 2012-2013 on improving policy, and legislative and regulatory frameworks.

47. At its thirty-sixth session, held in 2011, the General Conference of UNESCO proclaimed 13 February World Radio Day, which recognizes radio as the most accessible medium for remotely located, vulnerable and marginalized communities and as the mass media reaching the widest audience in the world.

48. Fifteen member States of UNESCO have reported to the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication on the extent of the judicial follow-up conducted in relation to journalists killed during the course of their professional work. A United Nations joint plan of action on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity is mobilizing action to monitor the growing numbers of assassinated or tortured journalists worldwide.

49. In following up the World Summit on the Information Society, UNESCO hosted the 6th and 7th facilitation meetings of the action line on media, on the themes "Media regulation framework: broadcasters and social media" and "Freedom of expression on Internet and social media", respectively. A high-level debate on the theme "Right to communication: new social media and social transformations" was also held at the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2011.

50. UNESCO held a session on the role of social networks for democracy and social participation during the 6th Internet Governance Forum held in Nairobi in 2011, on the theme "Internet as catalyst for change: access, development, freedoms and innovation". Much debate was triggered among panellists, who shared observations in the light of the Arab Spring, indicating how widely social networks are being used to publicly address subjects of a political or critical nature or that are considered to be taboo, outside the norms and practice of conventional media. There was agreement to protect freedom of expression, democratic participation through social networks and other human rights issues within a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework of Internet governance. UNESCO also participated in the

organization of the 2011 Internet Governance Forum session on security, openness and privacy.

51. Many countries have yet to enact freedom of information laws that allow citizens to seek information from public institutions. A number of countries that have enacted laws relating to the right to information have yet to see them implemented or enforced. The extent to which the potential benefits of freedom of information laws are fully realized depends on the availability of resources; effective procedures; the culture of information-sharing among public civil servants and the levels of awareness and demand among the general public for Government-held information. UNESCO has continued to provide support for sensitization and technical assistance to regional initiatives such as the first Pan African Conference on Access to Information, held in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2011. Standard-setting examples can be drawn from regional and international research initiatives, including one in Africa that focuses on the issue of freedom of information in a gender-inclusive manner in order to advance women's rights and empowerment and to promote the enactment of laws advocating women's rights.

52. The emphasis by UNESCO to strengthen communication and media capacities in developing and least developed countries responds to post-disaster situations and to sustainable development. Examples are provided below.

53. In response to the 2010 flood in Pakistan, the UNESCO office in Islamabad set up mobile community radio stations to facilitate the reunification of internally displaced communities in 12 severely affected districts. Selected community members were trained in basic journalism and programming skills. A radio drama series was produced to aid post-traumatic stress, provide health-related knowledge and raise awareness about the special needs of women during the disaster recovery period.

54. Following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, UNESCO responded to the communication needs of 50,000 internally displaced people by setting up a multimedia mobile unit at the Petionville golf course in Port-au-Prince, in order to help to reunite families and assist affected populations in adapting to a new life and society.

55. The recovery process in Haiti has been supported by a series of professional and institutional capacity-building initiatives undertaken in collaboration with a Haitian women's media association, the Association of Haitian Journalists, the National Association of Haitian Media, Haiti National Television and Haitian National Radio. In addition, the establishment of *Radio Vedek* in Cap Rouge has been a source of inspiration for Haiti's network of community radios and its 35 members. The network has trained 25 young people to run the radio station and meet the information needs of 18,000 Cap Rouge residents.

56. Twenty journalism schools in sub-Saharan Africa have been making progress in their efforts to reach a standard of excellence in providing journalism education and improving the quality of journalism in the region. The institutions have been provided with computers, textbooks and pedagogical methodologies to establish professional training of journalism trainers. The UNESCO journalism education curriculum, which has been adopted by more than 60 universities in 50 countries around the world, is also being used in the 20 schools.

57. Climate change reporting is an emerging priority for journalism educators at universities in Africa, Asia and Latin America. UNESCO has arranged workshops in

that area and has also sponsored the participation of African journalists at the sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Cancun, Mexico, in 2010. The reports filed by the sponsored journalists were distributed to 700 media outlets across the African continent.

58. UNESCO has supported and facilitated the creation of professional journalists and broadcaster networks on sustainable development issues through its offices serving Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mali and Morocco, and through its partners, including the Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting, Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union, the Southern African Broadcasting Association, Farm Radio International and the French National Commission for UNESCO.

59. Member States and relevant stakeholders are benefiting from multiple language versions, including the six official languages of the United Nations, Nepali and Portuguese, of the media development indicators, which guide policy decisions based on national-level media development assessments and have been instrumental in promoting the integration of communication for development in national development plans, including within the context of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks for Bangladesh, Ecuador, India, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Uruguay.

60. The application of the media development indicators has been completed in Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania and Timor-Leste, while it is ongoing in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mali, Nepal, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The assessments have made it possible to identify media development gaps at the national level, provide evidence-based recommendations on how to address them and guide the formulation of media-related policies. They have been particularly helpful in the elaboration of a road map for the development of a free, independent and pluralistic media in countries of the Arab region, such as Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia, following the Arab Spring.⁴

61. An online guidebook on applying the media development indicators has been prepared to assist researchers in carrying out assessments. A new set of survey instruments for collecting standardized media statistics at the national level is being developed and piloted by the Institute of Statistics of UNESCO. A global media survey is expected to be launched in 2013.

62. Media and information literacy is seen by UNESCO as an essential empowerment competency that enables communication for development. A model curriculum for teachers on the subject has been launched and an international university network on media and information literacy and intercultural dialogue has been set up in collaboration with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations to support member States in integrating media and information literacy in a formal teacher education curriculum. Over 250 educators from 35 countries and 80 teacher training institutions have enhanced their skills at national and regional workshops where action plans and strategies for the adaptation of the curriculum have also been formulated.

⁴ Available from http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/IPDC/guidelines_mdi_final.pdf.

63. The Network of UNESCO Chairs in Communications (ORBICOM), launched a global initiative carried out by the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and its partners⁵ to instil and enhance greater understanding about communication for development. A number of international conferences, including an international conference held in Bangkok in 2010, on the theme "Future imperatives of communication and information for development and social change", identified the following priorities: development of a web-based clearing house on communication and information for development and social change; development of an integrated framework of indicators for the assessment of communication for development and social change impacts; and preparation of a position paper outlining a framework for communication for sustainable social change, which would incorporate an overview of theoretical perspectives on the field and provide a comparative assessment of case studies.

United Nations Fund for Children

64. In the West African and Central Africa regions, the bulk of communication for development activities have centred on the promotion of four to six key household high-impact life-saving practices⁶ and strong emphasis on supporting immunization drives for polio and measles vaccinations.

65. In South Asia, India and Bangladesh now follow an integrated districts approach that allows for greater community-based participation and coordination across programme sectors. A recent evaluation of the approach, introduced in 2004 across 14 states in India, showed encouraging results in better health, nutritional and educational outcomes for children, including increases in child vaccinations and in knowledge about HIV transmission. In Pakistan, UNICEF supported nationwide consultations with journalists and media owners to improve reporting on issues affecting children and women. Key outcomes included the creation of a code of conduct for reporting on children and the establishment of a nationwide network of journalists dedicated to raising awareness on child protection issues.

66. In the East Asia and Pacific region, Indonesia is one of the countries that piloted a Short Message Service-based mobile phone application, based on the UNICEF publication, *Facts for Life*,⁷ which aims to provide families and communities with the information they need to save and improve the lives of their children and to strengthen the capacity of midwives in counselling families on childcare. In Cambodia, a multi-year communication effort, using interpersonal communication, mass media, social mobilization and point-of-service promotion, contributed to an increase of women appearing for their first antenatal visit, from 28.3 per cent in 2005 to 89.1 per cent in 2010. The media component was national in scope, while interpersonal communication, social mobilization and outdoor promotion focused on the seven provinces practising "good behaviour change communication" strategies.

⁵ World Catholic Association for Communication (SIGNIS), the Arab Media Centre of the University of Westminster and the Cairo Communication Research Centre, among others.

⁶ For example, oral rehydration therapy, use of mosquito nets and washing hands with soap.

⁷ Available from <http://www.factsforlifeglobal.org/00/purpose.html>.

67. In the Middle East and North Africa region, Algeria trained female religious counsellors (*Mourchidat*) to broadcast health-related messages focusing on women and children.

68. In Romania, health-care providers and Government counterparts and mass media professionals were trained on, and sensitized to, specific issues related to, for example, breastfeeding, iodized salt consumption and HIV/AIDS.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

69. ESCAP advocacy efforts to engender greater participation, remove barriers and enhance the accessibility of persons with disabilities to information are carried out through Government and civil society organizations. ESCAP promotes accessible information and communication technologies, resource materials and training, including on its website, to allow persons with disabilities equal access to the benefits of information. The organization has also introduced measures to ensure that the documentation of meetings is available in Braille and that sign language services are provided at meetings.

70. ESCAP is planning to launch a Decade of Persons with Disabilities for the period 2013-2022. The aim is to fully mainstream disability into development issues and to address the continuing challenges faced in realizing the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Many challenges remain, including discrimination, unequal opportunities and a lack of resources; however, lessons learned show that continued advocacy, capacity-building with the full engagement of persons with disabilities and changes in legislation can engender positive change.

71. As part of that process, ESCAP will be convening in Incheon, Republic of Korea, in October 2012, a high-level intergovernmental meeting on the final review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 2003-2012. The meeting is expected to adopt an outcome document, which will serve as the regional action framework to guide the implementation of activities in the new decade. Within the disability context, communication for development is expected to play an important role in the implementation of the regional action framework.

72. Trainings of trainers and a peer educator system have focused on effective communication to impart knowledge, develop skills and better equip young people to adopt positive health behaviour. Training materials have been translated into local languages to facilitate the aforementioned processes.

73. Youth leader organizations and civil society organizations have been actively involved in consultations on youth policy development. They have also played a role in capacity-building in the context of developing leadership among young people and promoting their participation at meetings and other events in order to advocate for more effective national and regional responses. Partner organizations in the endeavour include ILO, UNESCO, UNFPA and UNICEF.

74. FAO is assisting member countries and field programmes in the design and implementation of communication for development strategies and services in support of sustainable natural resource management, climate change adaptation in agriculture and disaster risk reduction in Africa, Latin America and Asia and in the Caribbean region. The communication for development approach to climate change

adaptation and disaster risk reduction makes use of participatory communication processes and media to share information and knowledge among relevant stakeholders in a particular agro-ecological context. This, in turn, enhances the resilience of those affected by the challenges and offers livelihood options for coping with climate change, natural disasters and emergencies.

75. FAO promotes the development of local capacity in communication for development through in-service training at national institutions and web-based communities of practice. Communication for development platforms in Latin America and Asia and the Caribbean region facilitate the sharing of good practices and allow horizontal collaboration among peers. Onda Rural (www.ondarural.net) is an example of a regional platform promoting the role of communication for development and the use of radio for rural development in Latin America. It is a joint effort of the Association for Radio Education, the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters and FAO.

76. In collaboration with the College of Development Communication of the University of Los Baños in the Philippines, FAO has recently launched a capacity development initiative on collaborative change communication (www.cccomdev.org), which comprises an online platform of resources and a field-oriented learning tool containing a series of training modules on planning for and implementing communication for development interventions in rural development.

77. FAO provides support to member countries in all aspects of setting up and managing rural radio initiatives. The rural radio methodology is an integral part of the communication for development approach and empowers rural stakeholders to participate actively in rural development projects. In areas that do not have ready access to other communication technologies, radio is being used as an interface that facilitates access to agricultural productivity and food security information by rural broadcasters for adaptation in local contexts.

78. Audiovisual pedagogy and participatory video methodologies have been extensively appropriated by farmers and indigenous peoples' organizations in rural areas of Latin America and Africa. Both entail the production and use of video as part of a set of multimedia tools to address agricultural techniques and practices. Through the tools, farmers document experiences from their own perspectives, analyse issues, identify solutions and make their voices heard by decision makers. This creates a greater sense of responsibility and self-confidence and triggers development from within.

79. The Communication for Sustainable Development Initiative⁸ is a global programme designed to meet the challenges of climate change and to promote sustainable natural resources management in agriculture. It systematizes and promotes communication for development methods and tools; supports knowledge platforms and learning activities at the global and field levels and delivers technical support to national communication strategies and implementation in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Caribbean region.

80. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, a national communication programme has been institutionalized in the context of the country's agricultural innovation policy. Field staff have been trained in communication for development and a national

⁸ Available from <http://www.csdinitiative.org/>.

communication system has been established. Local communication plans have been implemented in four pilot sites, addressing agricultural topics prioritized by local communities.

81. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, participatory communication appraisals and rural radio broadcasting activities have been implemented to strengthen the capacity of national research and extension services to reach rural communities.

82. In Jamaica, intensive training in communication for development has been provided to development workers at the national level, while at the field level, direct support has been given to extension programmes for the production and use of multimedia materials.

83. The communication component of the FAO programme for West Africa, Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture, aims to ensure improved information and communication flow between all stakeholders, including for research, extension programmes, education, producers and consumers. At the regional level, the communication for development component is designed to promote links between the various country projects by supporting knowledge and information-sharing on new practices, technologies and lessons learned through web-based information platforms, mass media, participatory videos and face-to-face meetings.

84. An important step in the implementation of the communication component has been to conduct needs assessments, which provide useful information for the design of local communication strategies. Given the wide and diverse array of media available in local contexts it is crucial to identify which tool is appropriate for reaching the intended beneficiaries, taking into account gender differences, listening habits, cultural background and geographic location. In this respect, the communication for development component also hinges on more traditional forms of communication, such as village gatherings and town criers to facilitate farmers' engagement and enable them to properly articulate their needs and perceptions.

85. Since 2010, FAO has been supporting the Government of Bangladesh with a technical cooperation project on enhancing rural communication services for agricultural development through community rural radio. The project has established integrated rural communication services and the first community radio of the country for agricultural development, *Krishi Radio*, which is run by local practitioners in the rural province of Amtoli, Barguna district. With the slogan "My radio, my voice", it broadcasts a wide range of programmes daily, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., including on agriculture, fisheries, health and social awareness, as well as local songs and folk stories.

International Telecommunication Union

86. The "Girls in ICT" portal of ITU is designed to help girls and young women to prepare for and pursue a technology career, providing links to over 400 programmes, including scholarships, training and internship opportunities, ICT contests and awards, technology camps and online networks. The programmes are run by non-governmental organizations, universities, the private sector and other stakeholders. The portal also features the profiles of women role models,

inspirational videos and a report entitled "A bright future in ICTs: opportunities for a new generation of women", prepared by ITU.⁹

87. The ITU online training programme for indigenous peoples in Latin America consists of three training courses on planning, development, and implementation and follow-up of projects. The training courses were designed in collaboration with the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (Fondo Indígena) to recognize the role of ICT in economic development and poverty reduction and in line with resolutions of the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference held in Hyderabad, India, in 2010, and the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference held in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 2010 and with resolution 56/4 of the Commission on the Status of Women entitled "Indigenous women: key actors in poverty and hunger eradication".

World Bank

88. Major World Bank projects and programmes now have integrated strategic communication components to address major challenges. Components include communication support to transparency and accountability initiatives to improve governance; actions to engage and promote effective participation of civil society in different forms, including in oversight functions to ensure better service delivery through social accountability systems; efforts to empower people as part of community-driven development activities; consultation and communication to ensure effective implementation of the World Bank's safeguards and policies, including in relation to social and environmental issues.

VI. Communication for development projects at the country level, by theme

Capacity-building for women

89. ESCAP supports the empowerment of women to communicate and articulate their views in social, economic and political domains through national machineries for women, which focus on gender mainstreaming advocacy across all policy arenas of Government. Capacity-building workshops held in South-East and South-West Asia have recommended the need for improved capacity, in particular for advocacy and generating commitment for gender equality and the advancement of women, including at the highest political levels. The recommendations will be addressed at civil society and national machinery forums, in preparation for the 2014 Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and its Regional and Global Outcomes.

90. UNESCO and the International Federation of Journalists have produced gender-sensitive media indicators to address challenges affecting media performance and responsiveness in respect of gender sensitivity, including the role of women in the media, media policy requirements, capacity-building for professionals and the role of organizations, academic institutions, Governments and civil society in promoting gender sensitivity. The indicators are being piloted by 20 media

⁹ Available from www.girlsinict.org.

organizations during 2012-2013 to increase, inter alia, gender perspectives in media content, gender balance in media professional development, training and women's participation in management. Systematic monitoring will enable progress to be measured and existing gaps to be narrowed.

91. The *Global Report on the Status of Women in the News Media*, produced by UNESCO in partnership with the International Women's Media Foundation, provides advice and information for self-regulatory bodies and Member States that have started to formulate gender-related media policies.

92. The 2012 online training programme of ITU for indigenous peoples in Latin America has achieved up to 48 per cent female participation, bordering on complete gender balance. In previous years, when a gender-blind approach was taken, the number of women participants had not exceeded 20 per cent.

HIV and AIDS

93. The UNESCO Global Network of Young TV Producers on HIV and AIDS has increased regional programme exchange possibilities and delivered professional skills enhancement to television producers in South Asia, and Central and Southern Africa. Skills upgrading workshops have been hosted in Botswana, Chad, China, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Uzbekistan and Zambia.

94. ESCAP and its partners, including UNAIDS, UNDP, UNODC and UNFPA and civil society organizations, have promoted universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support through various meetings, trainings and capacity-building initiatives. Diverse modes of communication are being used to advocate beneficial change. Its resolution 66/10 on a regional call for action to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in Asia and the Pacific was reproduced in a comic book format in order to make it more accessible to sex workers. Many training sessions have been conducted to enhance life skills among youth for improved protection against the risk of drugs and HIV.

Campaigns

95. Women Make the News, the annual online campaign of UNESCO, promoted gender mainstreaming in the media and media and information literacy during International Women's Day, on 8 March. In 2011, UNESCO reached out to sensitize over 100 non-governmental organizations and 200 media organizations about media and information literacy and ways to improve understanding about gender perspectives.

96. In Montenegro, UNICEF has developed a nationwide multi-stakeholder campaign, "It's About Ability", to raise awareness about disability issues, including the mainstreaming of children with disabilities in schools and community life. A survey on knowledge, attitudes and practice carried out during the campaign period in 2011 revealed a 23 per cent increase in the number of people who said they had positively changed their behaviour towards children with disabilities.

97. The ESCAP "Bridge of Voices" campaign aims to promote better understanding between Thais and migrant workers and puts forward a more positive image of migrants that is in line with their contributions to the Thai economy and society. Although the campaign primarily involves Thai youth, it recognizes a need to also influence authorities and other groups in Thai society about the contribution migrants make to the host country. Support from Governments and social partners may strengthen technical capacity and impact.

98. ITU and the telecentre.org Foundation launched a campaign entitled "Telecentre Women: Digital Literacy" in 2011, which aimed to include at least 1 million disadvantaged women in developing countries in the global digital revolution. The campaign leverages the combined reach of the Foundation's global network of 100,000 telecentres worldwide and the 193 member States and 700 sector members of ITU to deliver training in ICT use. It reinforces ITU global efforts to promote the digital inclusion of women and the attainment of Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals, on gender equality. Since launching the campaign, 250,000 grass-roots women have been trained in functional digital literacy, with the support and contributions of over 100 partner organizations from 88 countries. The newly created Telecentre Women Fund, which underwrites the cost of training, has received support from Microsoft and Intel and is seeking additional financial donations to enable the campaign to reach its goal.¹⁰ ITU is also funding a contest that will award telecentre equipment to the members of the Foundation's global telecentre network that train the most number of women. Digital literacy training materials are supplied in the training materials, applications and tools section of the ITU "Connect a school, connect a community" online platform.¹¹

99. On 26 April 2012, ITU marked the second international celebration of Girls in ICT Day, which is celebrated every year on the fourth Thursday in April. It was established in 2010 by the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union in its resolution 70. At least 120 Girls in ICT Day events have been held in more than 80 countries worldwide. ITU estimates that some 10,000 girls and young women around the world have benefited from the campaign's efforts to raise awareness among communities, teachers and career advisers about job prospects in the ICT sector. Events were held in developing countries, including Armenia, Brazil, Honduras, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Oman, Peru, Senegal, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. Events were organized by ministries of communication, national ICT regulatory authorities, universities, private sector companies and a number of committed individuals and non-governmental organizations.

VII. Conclusions and recommendations

100. Member States seeking to develop communication for development policies can receive technical support from any of the United Nations system organizations involved in the Round Table mechanism, understanding that, while there is no single, binding approach that defines communication for development in the United Nations system, the principles of participation and dialogic communication are common threads.

¹⁰ See <http://women.telecentre.org/>.

¹¹ Available from <http://www.connectaschool.org/itu-training/3/149/Training-Materials/>.

101. Each United Nations system organization practices communication for development according to its mandate and to the advantage it best seeks to observe. Common to all such organizations is the principle that communication for development is pro-poor, people-centred and process-oriented. It is not a public relations or marketing tool. General Assembly resolutions 50/130 and 51/172 and the Rome Consensus are relevant references.

102. As a whole, the United Nations system has gained sound experience in communication for development and effectively used reliable technical resources in respect of the following approaches: behaviour change, communication for social change, communication for advocacy, and strengthening enabling media and communication environments. However, all four approaches have not yet been practised by any single United Nations system organization.

103. There is either limited or no public funding available for media and communication capacity-strengthening in developing countries and the least developed countries. The implications of this situation on overall national development can be understood clearly through analysis of relevant completed assessments. Diagnostic tools provided by the United Nations system are available for further adaptation by Member States, and their application can inform decision-making on resource allocation for communication for development programmes and ensure that sustainable communication is made central to development interventions.

104. The broadcasting sector, supported by the twenty-first century's more efficient technologies, is increasingly accessible through digital and mobile forms, and the Internet. It is essential to meet the needs and interests of the public and marginalized communities. Strengthening inclusive broadcast programming and facilitating policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks are preliminary steps for achieving progress in this regard in developing countries and the least developed countries.

105. The dearth of research about broadcasting within sub-Saharan Africa, for example, in relation to adolescents, indicates that this communication form is not considered in sufficient measure as an effective resource for national development. Member States will benefit from consulting with multiple stakeholders, including audiences, and methodically assessing broadcaster capacities in order to strengthen and reposition their relevance as partners in sustainable development. The use of community radio in particular merits attention.

106. The United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table mechanism may be replicated at the country level to encourage further progress in communication for development practices by United Nations country teams, Member States, academia and civil society, which are important stakeholders in positioning the concept as a norm in national development planning mechanisms. While the existing mechanism is dedicated, it is also voluntary, and its impact is limited by the absence of a strong and equally committed field network.



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Operational activities for development:

South-South cooperation for development

The state of South-South cooperation

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

On the basis of a recent surge in South-South economic interactions driven by the fast economic growth and resilience of major economies in the global South, the present report calls attention to the transformative features of a rising South. These include its expanding middle class, connectivity and knowledge as promising new assets for developing countries to harness in renewed efforts to achieve sustainable human development in such areas as food, health and energy security. The report responds to resolution 66/219, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation at its sixty-seventh session. Given the wealth of South-South exchanges at regional and subregional levels and the many emerging partnerships across the South, the report calls for multilateral forms of South-South cooperation that balance concerns for growth, equity and protection of the environment.

* A/67/150.



I. Introduction

1. South-South cooperation is no longer merely an alternate modality supporting the development of poor countries. It underpins the buoyant intra-South trade that has changed the geography of international economic relations and made developing countries the drivers of global growth. In a changing world working to reorganize itself in the face of severe crises and tectonic shifts in economic performance and potential, South-South cooperation has been a key factor of stability and hope.

2. South-South cooperation has been a major factor in the decade-long fall of poverty levels in Africa that has come on the heels of similar reductions in Asia, creating a new middle class on both continents. Meanwhile, the rapid spread of mobile telephone networks across Africa and Asia has radically improved levels of connectivity within and among developing countries in conjunction with new remote-sensing and information-processing technologies that have made it possible for developing countries to leapfrog over many obstacles to development. These trends indicate more than achievement and potential: they also underline the need for South-South cooperation to take a wider view of development, one that incorporates a stronger human development perspective.

3. The growing magnitude of South-South support for development at a time of declining grant aid from the North has attracted attention and comment over the past year. In much of the commentary, there has been a tendency to equate the two modalities of development assistance and to conflate resource transfers among developing countries with all South-South cooperation. Flows of development assistance from the North and the South are significantly different, however, and South-South cooperation is much wider than financial and technical support; it is a broad consultative and collaborative process engaging all developing countries, aimed at improving their collective economic, social and political capacity and welfare. The attempt to bring official development assistance (ODA) and South-South flows of development support within a common framework of aid effectiveness in the international policy arena is a move firmly resisted by developing countries, necessitating the explanation and the clarification of the concept and processes of South-South cooperation. The future of development assistance will necessarily include discussions of South-South cooperation and the present report is meant to assist in this process by shedding light on the evolving distinctions and complementary nature of South-South cooperation through traditional development assistance by highlighting its role in a changing development landscape with new players, technical tools, partnerships and emerging priorities.

II. The state of South-South cooperation

A. The emergent South

4. The rise of the South that has been the focus of international attention in recent years has resulted in a range of qualitatively new realities with important implications for the world order. Among the most significant are those described below.

5. A new middle class: A decade of high growth in sub-Saharan Africa has created what the African Development Bank has described as a middle class of over 300 million people with income for discretionary expenditure. As in South Asia, this

segment of society now greatly outnumbers its counterparts in Europe and North America. The great North-South gap in wealth has not, of course, been closed, but in terms of the stability of growth in Africa, it ushers in a new reality. It is not only that domestic consumption is now an increasingly important factor in the Africa growth story; the capacity of the continent to deal with many of the challenges that it faces has also been improved.

6. A new geography of world trade: The much-talked-about "new geography" of world trade is apparent not only in the unprecedented percentage of world commerce that developing countries now account for, but also in the resilience of the South in the face of the financial and debt crises that have racked the major developed countries. The continuing demand for African commodities from China, which now takes a third of all of the continent's exports, has cushioned the South against circumstances that would have spelled disaster for many countries a decade ago. Africa is also emerging as an increasingly important destination for foreign direct investment, accounting for a quarter of flows to the South, a historic high. Although much of the flow of foreign funds is directed to a few countries and to the extraction of raw materials, the manufacturing and services sectors, especially tourism, are also benefiting.

7. New connectivity: The South has experienced a rapid increase in connectivity within and among developing countries as a result of the spread of wireless telephone networks. In a world with a population of 7 billion, there are now nearly 6 billion mobile telephones in use. China has over 1 billion of them and India has over 900 million. In September 2011, Africa, with 620 million connections, passed Latin America in the global rankings to become the second-largest regional market for mobile telephones; by the end of 2012, this figure is projected to rise to 735 million. In the Middle East, 9 out of 10 people have telephones; in Brazil, the largest market in Latin America, the number of phones in use is 30 per cent greater than the population. If we consider that a decade ago there were only a few hundred million mobile telephones in the whole world, the profound and far-reaching implications of the new connectivity will be all too apparent.

8. New stores of knowledge: As the smart phone is both less costly and easier to handle than a computer, it lowers the threshold for engaging people in a range of educational and productive activities. Distance learning becomes easier, as does dissemination of news ranging from weather bulletins important to farmers and fishermen to stock market quotations. By enabling early warning and responses to natural and manmade disasters, the new connectivity increases social coherence and capacity. Reducing the cost and the effort of cooperation empowers ordinary people and thus strengthens democratic processes. Overall, people in developing countries are now able as never before to engage with what has been dubbed "the Internet of things", the 5 billion machines that today store and manage global information flows and humanity's accumulated store of knowledge. South-South cooperation will be critically important to cope with the world's unprecedented economic and social transformation that will redefine "development" itself.

9. New knowledge processors: The immediate development impact of the new connectivity has been magnified by advances in knowledge-processing technology such as cloud computing, "smart phones" with multiple functions, and remote sensing by small, unmanned aerial vehicles loaded with optical, biological, chemical and other sensors. These technologies, in combination with the geospatial

integration of multiple streams of data, can layer information on interactive maps that can be viewed on smart phones. This obviates the traditional struggle of policymakers to access and comprehend multiple streams of data on differing economic, social, environmental and other matters, facilitating South-South cooperation on scales that would have been impossible or prohibitively expensive even a decade ago. For instance, the Pacific Islands Forum, with its developing-country members,¹ which are spread over vast oceanic distances, is using the new technologies to monitor a marine conservation area of 40 million sq km. Five countries² in southern Africa have established the world's largest wildlife conservation project in an area the size of Sweden. The Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area cuts across national borders and allows migratory elephant herds to follow their old routes unhindered by lines on a map. Geospatially integrated economic, social and environmental information has vast potential to facilitate South-South cooperation. For one thing, it can make anyone with a mobile phone an eyewitness reporter of social and environmental events.³

10. New policy imperatives: As the driver of world economic growth projected to account for nearly 60 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030, the South now faces a range of new policy imperatives. Foremost among them is that of sustainable development. The "grow now, worry about the environment later" model is no longer a policy option in the face of global warming and climate change. Terrorist movements, drug trafficking, money-laundering and all other forms of international organized crime must also come within the policy ambit of the South, for they contribute to regional tensions, subvert good governance and make cooperation difficult, if not impossible.

B. Advancing sustainable human development

11. As developing countries look beyond subsistence issues, there is increasing emphasis on human development. The issues under this heading are not new, but there is a move to consider them within a strategic framework.

Food security

12. While the world population doubled in the last 50 years, food production tripled. As a result, there is more than enough food in the world today to feed the 7 billion plus global population. However, about 1 billion people today live with hunger as a daily reality. There are multiple reasons for this. About one third of the food that is produced is either eaten by pests, destroyed owing to bad storage or just thrown away as kitchen waste (annually, consumers in rich countries waste almost as much food — 222 million tons — as the entire net food production of sub-Saharan Africa: 230 million tons). Available food often goes to waste because of a lack of transport infrastructure. Restrictive trade regimes, corrupt officials and

¹ Current members are Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

² Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

³ Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/24 established the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management as a forum for coordination and dialogue among Member States, and between Member States and relevant international organizations.

profit-hungry merchants can also prevent food from getting to hungry people. In short, mass hunger is not about food supply alone; "food security" is related to good governance. Unless issues are treated comprehensively, it will be difficult to eradicate hunger.

13. Ongoing South-South cooperation regarding food security involves initiatives ranging from sharing expertise on how to increase productivity, to technical assistance in watershed management, to scientific research on developing seeds adapted to the particular conditions of different regions. Specific initiatives include the new Southern African Development Community (SADC) Seed Centre in Zambia, which seeks to ensure that farmers in the region have access to the best hybrid seeds available; the African Union-sponsored Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa; and the newly launched programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to reduce food waste. Some 40 projects under FAO auspices involve developing-country experts working with farmers in other developing countries or training programmes to spread best practices.

14. The comparative advantage of South-South cooperation has been well established, but there is a need for additional studies to identify a whole range of best practices. The best agricultural science will need to be wedded to the best traditional knowledge in areas such as water management, energy use, production of nutritious and affordable food, and climate-change adaptation. In particular, there is a need to ensure that small landholders are not alienated from their property in the name of modernization, or women disempowered.

15. Concerns about food security, sustainable agriculture and public health converge in efforts to promote trade in organic food products. Although the most lucrative sections of the \$60 billion global market for organic food are in Europe and North America, production assets are mainly in the South: of an estimated 2 million certified organic farmers worldwide, some 80 per cent are in developing countries (34 per cent in Africa, 29 per cent in Asia and 17 per cent in Latin America). Developing countries also account for 73 per cent of land certified for organic wild collection and beekeeping. Countless other developing-country farmers practise organic agriculture without being formally certified. In February 2012, the Asia Working Group of the Global Organic Market Access (consisting of public- and/or private-sector representatives from Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam) agreed on an Asia Regional Organic Standard, a step towards easing trade in organic food products within the region and with developed markets.

Health security

16. South-South cooperation in the health sector is also on the rise, which includes important but generally below-the-radar efforts at research and development to produce and market pharmaceutical drugs needed in developing countries. This reflects and follows the efforts of Governments, which have increasingly included research and development elements in bilateral and multilateral agreements. China, for example, has bilateral agreements with 11 African countries and a fund to support projects. India has a \$40 million budget for the new CV Raman International Fellowship Programme, which brings African researchers to work in Indian institutions. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations; the India, Brazil and South Africa partnership; the Southern Common Market, the New Partnership

for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)⁴ have all been promoting scientific and technological linkages within their own membership.

17. Despite the importance that Governments attach to South-South cooperation in science and technology, information on what is actually happening is scarce. A recent study⁵ on cooperation among developing countries in biotechnology noted this deficit in asserting that the amount of emphasis being given to the field apart from political support was "unknown". Based on research in existing databases regarding a number of developing countries engaged in biotechnology collaboration (Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Jordan, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Thailand and Zambia), the study found that while the extent of cooperation was low, it was significant and growing: of the 1.2 million papers on health biotechnology published between 1996 and 2009, 17 per cent had authors from developing countries. Moreover, the number of authors from developing countries had more than quadrupled in that period: from 6,190 in 1996 to 26,648 in 2009. Those figures did not include research and development being done by corporations, which were also working collaboratively on vaccines and drugs to deal with malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and other common diseases. On the basis of responses to a questionnaire, the study found that most entrepreneurial collaboration (60 per cent) involved the distribution or marketing of drugs and/or providing supplies. Only 13 per cent of respondents were collaborating on research and development. There was broad agreement that the major obstacles to increased South-South collaboration in research and development were lack of financing and unfocused priorities.

18. As with food security, multiple factors are affecting health security, and current indices are not entirely relevant because they tend to give disproportionate weight to such factors as the number of hospitals and doctors and not enough to others such as environmental hazards, exercise habits and the quality of food. Data on these aspects will have to be subject to standardized definitions and measurement before policymakers have a basis for effective action. For example, to improve public health, parties to the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control are adopting South-South cooperation as a measure to curb the production and the use of tobacco products.

Energy security

19. Access to steady energy supplies has constrained growth in developing countries over the years. Studies have noted that while per capita energy consumption in developing countries is still lower than in developed countries, the annual rate of growth in energy consumption is three to four times higher than in developed countries. The fast economic growth witnessed in the global South over the past decade has concurrently given rise to higher rates of energy consumption. Owing to their rapid economic growth, developing countries such as Brazil, China and India have quickly increased their energy consumption and are becoming increasingly dependent on oil imports, mainly from other countries in the global South. Efforts to accelerate and secure sustainable development gains in the South

⁴ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

⁵ Halla Thorsteindóttir, ed., *South-South Cooperation in Health Biotechnology: Growing Partnerships amongst Developing Countries* (International Development Research Center, Ottawa, and Academic Foundation, New Delhi).

now include policy debates and programmes on South-South and triangular cooperation aimed at reducing overdependence on fossil fuels, which contribute to global warming, and the adoption of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, hydropower and geothermal.

20. The 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) attached greater importance to South-South cooperation efforts. During the Rio+20 Conference, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie organized a panel to discuss the need for technology transfer among developing countries to bring energy to the world's poor. One successful example noted during the panel discussion was the West African Gas Pipeline, a project transporting gas over 700 km from Nigeria to Benin, Togo and Ghana, where private- and public-sector companies were able to join forces in providing financial support and technical assistance. Also during the Conference, successful Southern development solutions were shared at the South-South cooperation exhibition, including those for clean energy in Guinea-Bissau. The project funded by the India, Brazil and South Africa partnership that has to date implemented a solar energy strategy for rural areas, giving 3,000 individuals access to electricity, is slated to expand to 20 additional villages in Guinea-Bissau.

21. In addition to global discussions and the showcasing of successful South-South efforts in energy security, practical actions have also included training and sharing of knowledge and skills. The Nigerian energy sector has benefited from programmes whereby key personnel from the National Power Training Institute of Nigeria, the Power Holding Company of Nigeria PLC and related government agencies have been trained by India's National Power Training Institute, funded in part by the World Bank and the United Nations Office for Project Services, with future training planned for Argentina and Thailand. The Energy and Resources Institute in India has also been tasked to bring its expertise to the rural areas of Afghanistan through a project facilitated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on capacity development and institutional support to provide sustainable, renewable energy sources to supply electricity to that country's rural population. The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation has also expanded its South-South Energy Initiative, which focuses on the petroleum industry, to build the capacities of Southern newcomers to the industry through South-South knowledge-sharing between partners, including Trinidad and Tobago, Ghana, Suriname and the United Republic of Tanzania.

22. South-South and triangular cooperation is evident in numerous initiatives supported by the United Nations and various other development partners to spur green development. In September 2011, the Secretary-General launched the Sustainable Energy for All initiative establishing 2012 as the International Year for Sustainable Development for All and setting forth the ambitious goal of having sustainable energy available to all by 2030. The strategy of China has focused on investing in the dissemination and the donation of technologies for energy conservation, water conservation and renewable energy to small island developing States and least developed countries.

23. In 2008, the African Union and the European Union established the Africa-European Union Energy Partnership. At the first high-level meeting of the Partnership in Vienna in September 2010, African and European leaders launched the Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme in order to mobilize the technology, the expertise

and the innovation capacity of Europe to build expertise and capacity in Africa towards the development of the vast but largely untapped renewable energy potential in Africa. It will also help to build a new area for industrial trade and business cooperation between Africa and Europe. The Programme, which is an integral part of the Africa-European Union Energy Partnership, has set a target of bringing access to modern and sustainable energy services to at least an additional 100 million people by 2020. It will also contribute to the agreed Partnership targets for renewable energy by building hydropower facilities, wind-power capacity, solar energy capacity and other renewable energy sources, such as geothermal and modern biomass.

Infrastructure development

24. Infrastructure deficits have been among the most serious impediments to South-South cooperation, and this continues to be the case. There is inadequate infrastructure financing in almost all developing countries, with particularly urgent needs for investments in sustainable energy, transport and water. Investments by Southern providers in infrastructure help programme countries to diversify their economies. They provide reliable energy sources, transport routes and information and communications technology (ICT) at lower costs. Between 2001 and 2008, Southern providers accounted for 47 per cent of official infrastructure financing for sub-Saharan Africa. Projects were mostly delivered in a timely, predictable and cost-effective manner.

25. The major Southern supporters of infrastructure development in sub-Saharan Africa are (in declining order of cumulative development assistance from 2001 to 2008): China, India, the Islamic Development Bank, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the Saudi Fund for Development, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund for International Development, the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, the Republic of Korea, the Nigeria Trust Fund and Brazil. These Southern providers of development assistance differ in financing terms, volume and trends of assistance, and preferences for geographical locations and infrastructure sectors.

26. The relative scarcity of ODA from traditional donors for infrastructure and the timely delivery of infrastructure support from developing countries have made the latter preferred partners. Some sectors, such as water, have been relatively neglected by both traditional donors and Southern providers, slowing progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

27. China, the largest source of South-South infrastructure financing, follows a unique process in taking on responsibility for infrastructure projects that are identified through bilateral negotiations and mutual agreements. In dealing with countries that cannot provide adequate guarantees that loans will be repaid, it follows what has come to be known as the "Angola model", a barter arrangement under which a Government pledges natural resource supplies in return for the infrastructure built by Chinese firms. This involves agreements at three levels. The first is a special framework agreement between Governments outlining the principles for cooperation. The second is agreement by banks and the supplier of raw materials. The third step involves the African Government signing work

contracts with companies recommended by the China International Contractors Association, with labour performed by both Chinese and local workers.⁶

28. India is the second-largest provider of infrastructure financing to other developing countries, directing most of it to members of SAARC and nearby countries. Most of the financing has been disbursed under the auspices of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme, which has worked with 156 countries and spent about \$1 billion since it began operations in 1964. The Programme trains personnel in India, provides project support, including technical assistance, organizes study trips and supplies humanitarian relief. Another initiative is the Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme, focused on 19 English-speaking African countries. A more limited programme, Team-9, provides \$500 million in lines of credit to eight West African countries to buy Indian products and services, which export oil to India or are host to Indian companies prospecting for oil.

Knowledge exchange

29. Developing countries, United Nations specialized agencies and donor agencies have all acknowledged the central importance of information flows and knowledge-sharing through South-South cooperation. However, they have acted to facilitate them in many different ways. The most direct way has been by establishing "knowledge hubs", whose creation has become a matter of increasing interest: in July 2012, some 300 delegates from 40 countries gathered in Bali at the invitation of the Government of Indonesia to discuss how to do so successfully. They exchanged information and experience and heard that the three essentials for success were strong political backing, reliable funding (public and public-private partnership models exist), and support from the practitioners who actually have the knowledge and experience to be shared.

30. All specialized agencies of the United Nations system are major knowledge hubs in their areas of expertise, and as the following sampling indicates, their initiatives have varied widely. The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation has established the Global South-South Development Academy, offering access to Southern development solutions and experts. The World Bank has a multi-donor South-South Facility supported by four middle-income countries. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in its regional programming, is predominantly focused on knowledge-transmission processes involving networks of developing-country practitioners and institutions such as the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (still known by its former acronym, TWAS, for Third World Academy of Sciences). The International Labour Organization (ILO) Inter-American Centre for Knowledge Development in Vocational Training promotes South-South and triangular cooperation through a regional knowledge-sharing platform and network for policies on skills development; it connects public institutions, international organizations, social partner organizations, universities and civil society. The World Food Programme, in collaboration with FAO, has a Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil to help spread the know-how generated by the remarkable achievement of that country in reducing poverty. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization hosts Centres for South-South Industrial Cooperation in China and India. It will also host the 2012 Global South-

⁶ Martyn Davies, "How China is influencing Africa's development", background paper, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (2010).

South Development Expo (to be held in Vienna on 19-23 November), the platform developed by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to showcase Southern development solutions to shared problems among developing countries.

31. At the national level, there has been an increase in transparency in recent years as a number of Governments with major South-South cooperation programmes have either issued statements clarifying what they do or established separate organizations to focus their activities. China issued a white paper providing an overview of its South-South activities. India established a new development assistance partnership and Brazil established the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation. Mexico's new development cooperation agency, Agencia Mexicana de Cooperacion Internacional para el Desarrollo, brought together 27 existing knowledge hubs in 14 thematic areas. Indonesia continues to spread the work of South-South cooperation among four government departments, but established the Grand Design and Blue Print on South-South and Triangular Cooperation and a coordinating team to implement it. Singapore established a new public company, the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise, to be the single point of access to expertise from 15 government ministries and 66 public-sector statutory boards and a wide range of highly specialized private companies.

32. Meanwhile, the African Virtual University has received funding to open 12 new distance and e-learning centres, upgrade 15 existing centres, strengthen ICT capacity, enhance science and technology programmes and train staff to develop relevant courses. Established in 1997 by the World Bank, the University provides e-learning courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels in math and science, teacher education, basic ICT skills and ICT classroom integration. It has graduated 40,000 students from 27 sub-Saharan countries.

33. More traditional ways of sharing knowledge — through brick-and-mortar universities — also continue to be the focus of much South-South cooperation. In Africa, six years of preparation resulted in the announcement in December 2011 that Pan-African University would open its doors to postgraduate students and researchers at five centres hosted by existing universities. The University nodes include an Earth and Life Sciences Centre hosted by the University of Ibadan in Nigeria; a Centre for Sciences, Technology and Innovation at the Jomo Kenyatta University in Kenya; a Centre on Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Yaoundé in Cameroon; a Space Sciences Centre in South Africa; and an Institute for Water, Energy and Climate Change supported by a network of 11 Algerian universities. The Association of African Universities and the African Academy of Sciences will play major roles in the governance of the University, which is expected to have 100 students at each centre, rising to a total of 15,000 by 2015. India will support the Nigerian node and Sweden the one in Cameroon. Other partnership agreements are expected before the University opens its doors to students in September 2012.

C. Varied realities of regional integration

34. The regional context and circumstances of South-South cooperation in Africa, Asia and Latin America are very different. A ready indicator of these differences is the level of intraregional trade as a share (percentage) of each region's total exports of merchandise, as shown in the following chart.

Origin	Destination				
	Africa	Asia	Commonwealth of Independent States	Middle East	South and Central America
Africa	12.3	24.1	0.4	3.7	2.7
Asia	2.7	56.2	1.8	4.2	3.2
Commonwealth of Independent States	1.5	14.9	18.6	3.3	1.1
Middle East	3.2	52.6	0.5	10.0	0.8
South and Central America	2.6	23.2	1.3	2.6	25.6

Source: Extracted from World Trade Organization, *International Trade Statistics 2011*, based on 2010 data.

35. The high level of Asian intraregional exchanges reflects the fact that in East and Southeast Asia, transnational corporations have established production chains that cross national borders, with manufacturing, assembling, finishing and packaging in different countries. The investment in East and Southeast Asian transport and manufacturing infrastructure has been extremely high and the two subregions now boast the best connectivity of any area in the developing world.

36. The intraregional trade in South and Central America accounts for a quarter of the total exports from the region, although there is significant variation in the export destinations of the countries in the region. For instance, Mexico, a member of the North American Free Trade Agreement, has over 80 per cent of its trade with the United States of America and only 6.4 per cent with the rest of Latin America. For Brazil the comparable figures are 12.5 and 22.1 per cent and for Argentina they are 6.9 and 40.9 per cent.⁷ The remaining regions (Africa, Commonwealth of Independent States and the Middle East) have smaller intraregional trade shares owing to the fact that they export large quantities of natural resources, mostly to developed economies in Asia, Europe and North America.

37. Prone to weak national and regional infrastructure, connectivity and lower levels of intraregional trade, Africa continues to face serious problems ranging from devastating levels of poverty and long-running armed conflicts to terrorism and natural disasters, including the 2011-2012 swarming desert locust and famine in the Horn of Africa. Despite these challenges, however, the African perspective is now firmly fixed on the promise of the future and how to achieve it. The 2012 joint report of the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa *Unleashing Africa's Potential as a Pole of Global Growth*,⁸ and the discussion of it at an African Union ministerial meeting highlighted the necessary steps. The report highlights the requirements for sustained growth over the next two decades, including improved political and economic governance; investment in human capital and critical physical infrastructure; innovation and technology transfer for increased value addition, industrialization and structural transformation; efforts to deal with climate change; a "green revolution" in agriculture; increased development financing from internal and external sources; and accelerated regional integration and intra-Africa trade along with "new partnerships with the emerging southern economic powers".⁹

⁷ http://www.eclac.cl/publicaciones/xml/2/45452/Documento_Completo_Balance_Preliminar.pdf.

⁸ Economic Commission for Africa and African Union Commission, *Economic Report on Africa 2012: Unleashing Africa's Potential as a Pole of Global Growth*, available from <http://new.uneca.org/era/era.2012.aspx>.

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 170.

38. Some of the recommendations noted above extrapolate on existing trends. The dramatic increase in African phone connectivity has been driven entirely by companies based in South Africa, the United Arab Emirates and India. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) reported in July 2012 that as corporations based in Europe and North America cut back on investments in Africa in the face of recession in their home markets, African corporations were picking up the slack. It was not just new-found deposits of oil, gas and other mineral wealth that attracted them; supermarket chains, construction companies and banks, most of them based in South Africa, have been drawn to serving the emerging middle class across Africa. *The Wall Street Journal* reported that South Africa's Shoprite Group had "raised \$1 billion in bonds and new stock in March to fuel expansion into markets including Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo, adding to the 223 stores in 16 countries it already has outside South Africa. The Nigerian industrial conglomerate Dangote Group spent \$93 million on a majority stake in a South African cement maker in 2010 and \$400 million to build a cement factory in Zambia in 2011. Togo-based Ecobank Transnational Inc. was the second-biggest investor in Africa over the past decade in terms of new projects; the bank now operates in 32 African countries."

39. Much of the progress in intra-African affairs has been achieved under the aegis of the African Union, the world's most advanced effort at structured, formalized South-South cooperation and the only one spanning an entire continent. Supported by its own comprehensive constitutional structures, functioning institutions and umbrella development programme (NEPAD), the African Union has helped to change a range of African realities. Its Peace and Security Council has fielded peacekeeping and peacemaking missions to stem conflict; through a peer-review mechanism, it has provided for a measure of transparency and accountability in governance; and by inviting the participation of civil society in shaping economic and social policy, it has sustained its own legitimacy. A firm policy of not recognizing African leaders who rise to power through military coups has drastically reduced political volatility and strengthened democracy across the continent.¹⁰

40. In the light of the above, it is important for regional policymakers to keep in mind the very different levels at which countries engage with regional economic processes.

D. Broadening partnerships for development

41. In 1995, the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation identified 23 developing countries as "pivotal" to South-South cooperation because of their relatively advanced technological and economic capabilities. They have continued to lead in providing support and have increasingly broadened its scope. A range of interregional consultative processes has been established by individual countries (China-Africa, India-Africa, Republic of Korea-Africa, Turkey-Africa, China-Latin America, India-Latin America); they are all firmly focused on economic and

¹⁰ This policy was strengthened when the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance came into force on 15 February 2012. The Charter has measures to support electoral institutions and processes to ensure democratic, free and fair elections; it rejects unconstitutional changes of government, underscores the obligation to ensure the independence of the judiciary and promotes the observance of human rights.

technical cooperation but have little commonality of aim or process. Although there has been a recent increase in transparency through these arrangements, the information available is often not comparable. The following description of the South-South cooperation activities of major partners should be read with that caveat in mind.

42. China provides the bulk of interregional support for development. In July 2012, at the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Beijing pledged a doubling of concessional loans to \$20 billion over the next three years. Over 2,000 Chinese enterprises are engaged in other developing countries, both in Africa and Latin America. Although they tend to bring most of the labour force used on the projects from China, they have also drawn on the more than 30,000 African professionals trained under official programmes. In 2011, trade between China and Africa reached \$166.3 billion, an increase of 16 times the 2000 level, with Africa running a trade surplus of \$20.1 billion. China's direct investment in Africa now totals \$15.3 billion, compared with less than \$500 million 10 years ago.

43. Indian technical and financial cooperation is primarily directed to its own subregion and has as its primary focus Afghanistan. The part of the Indian South-South Programme focused beyond its own subregion is heavily weighted towards Africa. The portfolio of its initiatives there includes the supply of affordable generic versions of expensive branded pharmaceuticals; the Pan-African e-Network, a broadband system that links African hospitals and educational institutions to centres of excellence in India; and a diversified technical assistance programme that brings some 1,600 young Africans to study in India every year.

44. The Government of Brazil has allocated \$30 million to its Agency for Cooperation, which devotes 75 per cent of its budget to cooperation with UNDP and the remaining fraction to other United Nations organizations. Brazil is active in South-South cooperation projects in over 80 countries. The Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Thailand and Turkey have each made tremendous progress in promoting and strengthening South-South partnerships and programmes at the bilateral and regional levels and are now establishing institutions to promote greater knowledge-sharing and research in areas such as agriculture, energy and climate change.

45. The India, Brazil and South Africa partnership founded in 2003 has been broadening relations within the group through biennial summits that serve as occasions for cultural events, non-governmental organization presentations and seminars. The partnership also has a development fund managed by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to which each member contributes \$1 million a year towards projects that combat hunger and poverty. In March 2012, India hosted its first IBSA Ministerial Conference on Decent Work, which was attended by 22 countries focusing on sharing knowledge and experiences. The Conference decided to establish a working group that would meet annually on the topic.

E. Role of the United Nations system in South-South and triangular cooperation

46. More than three decades after the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries urged that the United Nations development system be "permeated with the spirit" of South-

South cooperation, the Joint Inspection Unit reported in 2011 that progress had been slow, although developments over recent years had shown increasing progress among a number of United Nations organizations and agencies. This section looks at evidence of more strategic approaches by agencies in support to South-South cooperation.¹¹

47. UNDP has recently promoted a number of knowledge management platforms, including a unique Solution Exchange that was launched in India in 2005 to provide an impartial platform for the exchange of knowledge and ideas among 35,000 development practitioners across 13 thematic areas. This award-winning initiative¹² has been rolled out with support from UNDP over the last five years in Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Pacific Islands, while more are waiting in the pipeline to be launched. Regionally, UNDP has forged new strategic partnerships with Brazil, China, India, Mexico, Singapore, South Africa and Turkey, as well as Indonesia (to be finalized in 2012), in order to facilitate South-South flows of knowledge and expertise so as to accelerate progress on the Millennium Development Goals. To enable strategic focus on policy issues and to encourage dialogue, UNDP pursues the establishment of global centres of excellence on thematic issues, or policy centres, in countries that have gained valuable relevant experience in their own development processes, including Singapore on public service excellence, China on poverty reduction and Turkey on leveraging the power of the private sector in development.

48. In March 2012, the ILO Governing Body adopted a strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation. It focuses on four areas of the decent work agenda: respect for the human rights of workers in the workplace, employment promotion, social protection and social dialogue. Examples of ongoing ILO South-South and triangular projects include the Canadian International Development Agency-funded training of Colombian and Honduran labour inspectors by Argentines; the United States funding to Brazil to help Haiti fight child labour; and India, Brazil and South Africa joining with Germany to fund the participation of representatives of workers' organizations in the programmes of the ILO Global Labour University.

49. In November 2011, the World Intellectual Property Organization initiated a new project, on the theme "Enhancing South-South cooperation on intellectual property and development". The project supports the sharing of experiences among developing countries in the technical and legal aspects of protecting intellectual property, benefiting the least developed countries. A series of regional and interregional meetings is planned, as is an annual global event; the first such meeting will be in September 2012.

50. The creation of the UNCTAD Unit on Economic Cooperation and Integration among Developing Countries in 2009 was followed by two major publications focused on South-South cooperation: the *Economic Development in Africa Report*

¹¹ For more detailed information on recent United Nations support to South-South cooperation, see SSC/17/1 and SSC/17/2, submitted to the seventeenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.

¹² In June 2012, the initiative received the eWorld Public Choice Award at the Second eWorld Forum in New Delhi in the category of "Best initiative for localized application/content".

2010¹³ and the *Least Developed Countries Report 2011*,¹⁴ The *Creative Economy Report 2010*,¹⁵ produced in collaboration with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, looked at using South-South cooperation to foster creative economies among partners.

51. With funding from Malaysia, UNESCO is implementing a five-year programme to build South-South capacities to improve education and science. The main beneficiaries are least developed countries and small island developing States. Through a trust-fund agreement with South Africa, UNESCO is working to develop science, technology and innovation policy in all countries of SADC.

52. The United Nations Environment Programme has launched a web-based platform to promote South-South knowledge exchange aimed at building capacities for improved environmental governance. In cooperation with UNDP and the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth headquartered in Brazil, it is also working to clarify how poverty and environment linkages in development planning can be mainstreamed while protecting the poor from negative impacts.

53. The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, hosted by UNDP, has continued to improve its services and effectiveness as a convener for intergovernmental policy dialogue (for example, the seventeenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation held 22-25 May 2012), an innovator of knowledge-sharing mechanisms, a catalyst for inclusive public-private partnerships and a facilitator for inter-agency collaboration in implementing the Nairobi outcome document. It has done so in its role as the secretariat for the General Assembly High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and through its enhanced three-in-one multilateral South-South support architecture, comprising the Global South-South Development Academy, the Global South-South Development Expo and the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange. In this context, it may be recalled that Member States, in the Nairobi outcome document, encouraged United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes to leverage the services of the Special Unit.

54. All these initiatives indicate the increasing degree of importance that United Nations agencies are giving to South-South cooperation and underline the need to deal with the increasingly urgent issue of how best to coordinate action in widely diverse but interrelated fields. The concept of the United Nations system "Delivering as one" cannot be purely at the level of logistics and management; a firm sense of substantive interrelationships must direct action on development if it is to be effective. For this to happen, new institutional arrangements need to be studied and put in place and new information flows must be established for sustained and timely analysis of data.

¹³ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Economic Development in Africa Report 2010: South-South Cooperation: Africa and the New Forms of Development Partnership*, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.II.D.13.

¹⁴ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Least Developed Countries Report 2011: The Potential Role of South-South Cooperation for Inclusive and Sustainable Development*, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.II.D.5.

¹⁵ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and United Nations Development Programme, *Creative Economy Report 2010: A Feasible Development Option* (2010) (available from <http://academy.ssc.undp.org/DOCs/CER2010v2.pdf>).

III. Observations and the way forward

55. The "rise of the South" over the last decade has overall advanced economic development in Southern countries, but studies indicate that it has not changed the phenomenon of "enclave economies" in countries heavily dependent for income on the exports of a few commodities. Job creation has been weak in these countries despite sustained and rapid growth in GDP; unemployment and underemployment are at historically high levels in areas of the South that are experiencing political unrest and conflict. The rising level of income inequality in all fast-growing developing countries is also a cause of instability.

56. Efforts are under way to envision development models that balance growth with concerns for equity and protection of the environment. For example, Brazil has made a determined effort to eliminate hunger, reduce poverty, boost employment and provide electricity and low-cost fuel to its citizens. The result was a 66 per cent reduction in poverty, a 30 per cent increase in adult education and a 25 per cent increase in employment. Through its Centre of Excellence against Hunger and through a programme funded by the African Development Bank to spread its expertise in sub-Saharan Africa, Brazil has become a hub of specialized expertise on a matter of interest to all countries, including the middle-income and affluent ones with persistent pockets of poverty.

57. The search for new paradigms engaged policymakers, corporate leaders and civil society organizations during preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, 2-22 June 2010). The regional preparatory processes were essentially South-South efforts to forge common positions and strategies for Africa, Asia and Latin America within a 10-year framework urged by the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. Among the net results were an African 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production; a Latin American regional strategy articulating national and regional initiatives to change consumption and production patterns; a "low-carbon green-growth road map" for the Asia-Pacific region pointing to the need for systemic changes and proposing options for policymakers; an Arab strategy on sustainable consumption and production; and a Northeast Asian subregional programme for environmental cooperation mechanism. The regional initiatives were intended to be part of a globally coordinated effort to put in place a new development paradigm but this did not happen at the Conference.

58. It is necessary to highlight the importance of the call of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi, for greater effectiveness in South-South processes. Equally important are current efforts to reconfigure United Nations institutional arrangements in support of South-South cooperation in conjunction with deliberations on the 2012 quadrennial comprehensive policy review and the post-2015 development agenda.

59. South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation are not only increasingly relevant modalities for developing countries; they have become central, mainstream factors supporting the most vibrant growth pole of the world economy. This will require developing countries to adopt a strategic and inclusive approach to development that goes beyond traditional concerns in order to ensure that its benefits are shared more equitably.

60. The widespread and important roles of South-South and triangular cooperation are not fully reported or analysed under existing national and multilateral arrangements, which tend to be more bureaucratic, involving national or sectoral focal points. Experience has shown that such arrangements do not provide reliable or comprehensive information flows. The multilateral system offers the international scope and physical presence to provide this service, but there is a need for clear delineation of roles and responsibilities to ensure effectiveness and prevent duplication.

61. Developing countries have identified a number of shared challenges that are of the highest priority, including the strengthening of the productive capacities of the least developed countries and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, which represent the minimum requirements for what must be achieved to ensure sustainable human development. However, in the post-2015 environment, developing and developed countries must agree on the future of development and the role and the agenda for South-South cooperation. This is owing to the fact that the concept of South-South cooperation now extends beyond the range of how development is undertaken or funded and taps into questions regarding the identification of proven good practices and how they are to be scaled up.

62. The organizing framework of this pending conversation between Member States must be sustainable development. The central issue in this regard is how to change patterns of resource use, production and consumption. Progress has been made in advancing the interests of developing countries over the past five decades. As the international community looks to the future of the multilateral system in upcoming strategy-setting processes, much thought should be given to how the United Nations system will best use South-South cooperation to ensure effective development results. This should include a focus on aspects of the international economic, financial, governance and development architecture, which needs to be inclusive and afford all developing countries the opportunity to have an effective voice.

63. The first step in this direction is working to set forth a clear conceptual and strategic framework for South-South cooperation. Work has progressed on this front within the United Nations system in the form of the draft framework of operational guidelines, but further policy tools that are agency-specific are required for full implementation across the system. Furthermore, since the responsibility for South-South and triangular initiatives lies primarily with the Member States, there is a need for individual countries to establish their own policy instruments to provide the necessary frameworks to support and guide their own cooperation initiatives, inclusive of the variety of development partners, ranging from civil society to private sector partners, with which countries can collaborate to meet their development requirements.

64. The United Nations system remains fully committed to supporting South-South and triangular cooperation efforts by Member States and is organizing itself to this end by, inter alia, providing advisory services, working with countries to establish centres of excellence, and providing knowledge services to match supply and demand, all of which serve to promote and improve national capacities to handle a rapidly changing world. These initiatives need to be increasingly supported through multilateral forms of South-South cooperation aimed at addressing common development challenges such as food and energy security, financial volatility and

climate change. Member States in a position to do so should feel encouraged to invest more in multilateral South-South initiatives supported by all relevant United Nations specialized agencies and funds and programmes, including through the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation.

65. The normative and operational work of the United Nations in South-South cooperation also needs to be better rationalized and coordinated to respond more effectively to the development needs of a rising South and its ascendant global socioeconomic role. In this context, Member States expect all relevant United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes to serve in multiple roles as conveners, advocates, knowledge brokers, partnership builders and monitors of progress in South-South and triangular cooperation. Efforts to mainstream South-South cooperation in United Nations support to development should be aimed at pursuing sustained economic growth and sustainable development in the South through global, regional and national development planning processes, policies and programmes.